Daily Report

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* Poll Reveals Business Sector View of Mercosur

91SM0500A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 29 Aug 91 p 2

[Article by Buenos Aires correspondent Paulo Totti]

[Text] Brazilian businessmen are more optimistic than their future partners about their own chances of competing in the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) once all the protectionist trade barriers between Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay have disappeared in 1996. The Argentines are split among those who consider themselves fully able to compete and those who say they are not. The Paraguayans and Uruguayans are the ones who most fear competition in their own market from products made in Brazil or Argentina.

These are some of the results of a poll taken by the Argentine consulting firm of Eduardo D'Alessio and Associates and by the international firm of Coopers and Lybrand, among businessmen from all four Mercosur countries, who were interviewed between 15 July and 15 August. The poll, commissioned by the Association of Private Banks of Argentina, also shows that businessmen are optimistic about the objectives of Mercosur which, in their opinion, will be of greatest benefit to the big companies—especially the multinationals. Furthermore, they do not see the absence of an agreement on the respective external debts as an obstacle to integration of the four markets. There is also mutual mistrust among the four as to whether their partners—either the other countries or other businessmen—will scrupulously comply with all that is being agreed to in preparation for Mercosur. Actually, the rules of the game are not fully understood: 47 percent of the businessmen surveyed think that Mercosur is only a political or economic agreement among states, or just among companies, and do not know that the Treaty of Asuncion is quite different in nature, much more comprehensive in that it entails not only the free circulation of the factors of production—capital and labor—the harmonization of laws and of macroeconomic policies, but also the establishment of a single trade policy toward third countries.

The pamphlet reporting the results of the poll was distributed to the participants in the Seventh Convention of Private Banks of Argentina, which ended yesterday in Buenos Aires. In it, the authors said that they had talked to 123 businessmen "distributed proportionately among the four countries." The respondents represented many business sectors: agriculture and livestock, agroindustry, the automobile and auto parts industry, electronics, home appliances, finance, capital goods, metalworking, paper, petrochemicals, chemicals, transportation, textiles, as well as tourism and the capital markets. It is presumed that in Brazil, businessmen from this country's diversified economic regions were proportionally represented.

The Poll

Asked to define Mercosur, 53 percent of the businessmen said it is an economic agreement; 32 percent said it is a political agreement; 12 percent said it is both political and economic; and 3 percent even said it is "an agreement among companies." Forty-seven percent of respondents think that Mercosur is a proposal to help the countries of the region; 34 percent think it has to do with Latin American integration; and 19 percent think the purpose is "the integration of the Americas." Brazilians and Argentines are the ones who expressed an interest in Mercosur becoming a step toward the integration of Latin America. Uruguayans and Paraguayans prefer that the agreement not transcend its original borders.

None of the countries is considered as being in "excellent" shape as far as the ability of its businessmen to compete with those of other countries. On a scale of 1 to 10, Brazilians rate their own readiness for integration at 6.14, while businessmen from the other three countries have a higher opinion: they would rate Brazil at 6.74. The Argentines give themselves a 5.53 (the others give it a 6.79). The Paraguayans assign their own country a 4.78 (which their partners cut to 4.47), and Uruguay underestimates its competitiveness at 4.82, while its partners raise that to 6.36. The Paraguayans are the ones who have the highest opinion of Brazil, which they give a grade of 7.22. Brazilians did not return the favor: they rated the competitive chances of the Paraguayans at only 3.71.

The Brazilians, incidentally, are the ones that have a "winner's attitude" toward Mercosur. According to the authors of the survey, 48 percent of Brazilians answered that Brazil is fully prepared to compete within the Mercosur. Another 48 percent believe they are "partially prepared," to join Mercosur. Only 6 percent say that Brazil is not in a good competitive position. Among Argentines, 36 percent answered that they are fully prepared—almost the same proportion as said "no" (35 percent)—and the remaining 29 percent think they are "partially prepared." The proportion of Argentines who have little faith in their own chances is greater than found among the Paraguayans (27 percent) and the Uruguayans (19 percent). A high percentage of businessmen in the latter two, however, think they are "partially prepared" (76 percent of the Uruguayans and 57 percent of the Paraguayans). Only 5 percent of the Uruguayans and 16 percent of the Paraguayans would say they are fully prepared. Within the universe of respondents, 72 percent of those who took a "winner's attitude" are company presidents, board members, general managers or financial managers of multinational firms. None of them took a "loser's attitude" and 28 percent are "neutral."

In the opinion of 70 percent of the respondents, Mercosur will help the big companies with foreign capital or private local capital. (The others will benefit from the reactivation of the economy caused by the actions of the multinationals.)

Brazilian businessmen are the only ones who do not consider the food industry as being "uniformly promising" under Mercosur (71 percent in Argentina, 43 percent in Paraguay, 55 percent in Uruguay, and 24 percent in Brazil). Opinions coincide on other points, such as that integration will be most rapid in the automobile industry, tourism, finances, and the capital markets.

The cost of the energy that it produces, its business and managerial structure, and its higher degree of technological development are the competitive advantages enjoyed by Brazil, as seen by its own businessmen and those of the other countries. The poll found, however, that Brazil has the following weaknesses: a heavier tax burden and unstable rules of the game. The "strengths" and weaknesses of Argentina are, respectively: a skilled labor force and its business and managerial structure; high energy costs, high labor costs, and high shipping costs. Paraguay comes to Mercosur with the advantages of its low energy costs, transportation infrastructure, and stable rules of the game (its weaknesses are low levels of productivity and a lack of technological development). Uruguay sees itself—and is seen—as possessing the advantage of a skilled labor force and the disadvantage of high energy costs. All the countries have certain common problems that affect their competitive ability (both within and outside Mercosur) equally: high shipping costs, a heavy tax burden, low levels of productivity, and high labor costs (obviously, only businessmen were interviewed).

Almost all the Paraguayans (97 percent) and Uruguayans (98 percent) polled feel that the lack of harmonization among economic policies is a threat to integration. Seventy-six percent of the Brazilians and 88 percent of the Argentines also believe that economic policies in the four countries are not sufficiently symmetrical.

Surprisingly, it is the Argentines who have the most confidence in their democratic process: 37 percent of the Argentine businessmen believe that democratization has overcome political and legal instability (48 percent think that the past has already been partly overcome, and 15 percent say the instability has not been conquered). In Brazil, only 9 percent believe there is no longer any danger of instability (86 percent said the past has been "partly overcome," and 7 percent say that democracy has not helped to overcome instability). For 73 percent of the Uruguayans, the past has been partly overcome, and this was also the opinion of 63 percent of the Paraguayans.

Brazilians (69 percent) and Argentines (73 percent) do not believe that the region should wait for a renegotiation of the external debt before implementing Mercosur. Paraguayan (79 percent) and Uruguayan respondents (62 percent) tended to express exactly the opposite opinion. "This may suggest that business leaders in those countries would like to postpone implementation of the agreement," the authors of the survey commented.

Only 33 percent of the Argentines, 25 percent of the Brazilians, 18 percent of the Paraguayans, and 20 percent of the Uruguayans believe that the four member countries will scrupulously observe the rules imposed by the Mercosur accords. As if suggesting that Brazil's purchases of wheat and beef from the United States and Europe at subsidized prices represent one of the provisions of the Treaty of Asuncion that is not being respected, the poll asked respondents for their interpretation of Brazil's decision. Uruguay (50 percent) was the most gracious: 58 percent of the Uruguayans answered that the purchases were a special situation caused by domestic inflation. The same opinion was expressed by 62 percent of the Brazilians, 48 percent of the Paraguayans, and 38 percent of the Argentines. No Argentine believes that Brazil acted out of "ignorance of the treaty," as was claimed by 7 percent of the Brazilians themselves, 9 percent of the Paraguayans, and 32 percent of the Uruguayans. To the Argentines (61 percent), what Brazil did was to take advantage of a business opportunity—and 31 percent of the Brazilians, 49 percent of the Paraguayans, and 18 percent of the Uruguayans agreed.

Cuba

Havana Reports Arrival of Soviet Official

PA2109181491 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1407 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Valeriy Nikolayenko, Soviet deputy foreign minister, has arrived in Havana to discuss the withdrawal of a Soviet military brigade from Cuba. He was officially received by Alcibiades Hidalgo, Cuban deputy foreign minister, and other government officials.

EFE Notes Arrival

PA2109004491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2353 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 20 Sep (EFE)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko arrived in Havana today, 20 September, to negotiate the gradual withdrawal of over 3,000 Soviet troops who still remain on the island with the Cuban authorities.

The reason for the visit of the top official has not been explained by the Cuban authorities and the official media have not reported on the trip.

The visit by Nikolayenko, 50, has taken place after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced in Moscow on 11 September the withdrawal of 11,000 Soviet troops based in Cuba, which was received with official surprise and criticism on the Caribbean island.

The number of military troops in Cuba varies according to the various sources that have reported it in Moscow and Havana.

More on Arrival, Purpose

PA2109013791 Paris AFP in Spanish 1527 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 20 Sep (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko arrived in Cuba on 20 September at pre-dawn hours to deal with a thorny issue: the withdrawal of the USSR military brigade.

The foreign minister arrived just before 0645 GMT when the Aeroflot plane from Moscow landed at the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana which was dark and silent.

Nikolayenko was officially met by Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo and other government authorities, among which were military personnel. Members of the Soviet mission in Havana, as well as some Soviet military personnel in uniform, were also present.

Cuban reporters and foreign correspondents were banned.

Several hours later, a Foreign Ministry official who was questioned by a foreign correspondent, insisted that the Soviet deputy foreign minister "had not arrived yet, his arrival has been postponed for this afternoon."

Until today noon, the Cuban media had not reported the deputy foreign minister's arrival.

On 17 September, Moscow announced that Nikolayenko would travel to Havana to "prepare conversations" for the brigade's withdrawal and to discuss "Soviet-Cuban relations in general."

The brigade that the USSR will withdraw is estimated at less than 3,000 soldiers, and their presence on the island dates back to the months following the "missiles crisis" in October 1962.

The news of the Soviet troop withdrawal was announced in Moscow by President Mikhail Gorbachev last week, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Gorbachev's decision seriously bothered Cuba, which officially labeled it as "unilateral, unconditional, and without prior consultation."

In this regard, a political statement published as a GRANMA editorial states: "it is obvious that the Soviets (in Moscow) negotiated and made concessions to the United States with respect to Cuba, acceding to their demands without discussing a single word with our country."

"The USSR's decision to withdraw its military unit is equivalent to giving the United States the green light to carry out its aggressive plans against Cuba," the editorial notes.

Cuba, in the editorial, has stated its willingness to accept the simultaneous withdrawal of Soviet military personnel at the same time as the withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from the U. S base at Guantanamo.

This "would be the only equitable, just, and honorable thing under present circumstances," stressed the editorial that is believed to have been written by President Fidel Castro.

NOTIMEX: Talks 'Slow and Cold'

PA2209000491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2246 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Report by Juan Balboa]

[Text] Havana, 21 Sep (NOTIMEX)—A source from the Soviet Embassy today reported that talks between the Cuban Government and Soviet authorities on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the island are "slow and cold."

The negotiations between the two countries began on 20 September after the arrival in this capital of Valeriy Nikolayenko, who is the Soviet deputy foreign minister, one of President Mikhail Gorbachev's most trusted men and an expert on Latin America.

The source consulted by NOTIMEX said that the first contacts have been made, but the talks on the establishment of a calendar on the departure of Soviet soldiers

from Cuban territory "are advancing slowly." The talks, which will conclude on 23 September, are taking place amid diplomatic tension between Moscow and Havana caused mostly by the fact that Fidel Castro's administration believes that this decision was adopted by President Gorbachev in "a unilateral, unconditional, and unconsulted fashion."

The Cuban Government has reacted negatively to the Soviet president's announcement on the withdrawal of "a training brigade consisting of 11,000 men." The negative reaction of the Castro administration to the announcement stems not only from its unilateral nature, but also from the fact that the Soviet president claimed that such a large number of soldiers are on the island and that he made the announcement in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

To the Cuban leaders, the way in which the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers was announced constitutes "a green light" for the United States to carry on its aggressive plans against Cuba. However, three days later, Cuba took advantage of this decision to propose the simultaneous negotiation of the withdrawal of the Soviet Brigade from the island and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Guantanamo Naval Base. The proposal, the Cuban Government said, "would be the only equitable, just, and honorable thing to do" under the current circumstances.

In an editorial published on 14 September in the newspaper GRANMA, the Cuban leadership reminded the USSR that the island has always been "firm and loyal" to the commitments made between the two countries.

To many Cubans, the current diplomatic crisis between Cuba and the USSR reminds them of the "missile crisis" in 1962 when Khrushchev and the United States negotiated the withdrawal of missiles from Cuban territory without consulting Cuba. Gorbachev is repeating history with its, until now, ally.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolayenko hopes to establish in three days a calendar for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the island.

The Soviet Embassy confirmed that the deputy minister will travel to Mexico City on 23 September and then to the United States.

Silence Continues on Visit

PA2209145191 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Havana, 21 Sep (AFP)—The activities of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeriy Nikolayenko, who arrived in Havana on 20 September to conduct negotiations on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba, continued to be surrounded by the most absolute silence in the Cuban capital on 21 September.

The mouthpiece of the Cuban Communist Party and only national newspaper, GRANMA; and the two television networks, the principal mass media for the entire island, have yet to report on the arrival of Nikolayenko.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister was reportedly met at the airport by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo early in the morning of 20 September, and where journalists were banned.

In view of the absence of official information, ambassadors in Havana have had to resort to their contacts with foreign correspondents to confirm to their respective governments the arrival of Nikolayenko.

Soviet sources, who usually talk with Western journalists, have been evasive for the last few days.

Diplomatic officials believe that probably both sides will maintain the same reserve until Nikolayenko ends his difficult mission in Havana.

The announcement made by the USSR to withdraw its troops from Cuba was officially described as improper. The Cuban authorities did not conceal their displeasure for not having been previously informed by Moscow.

An official Cuban policy declaration states that the Cuban revolution is willing to accept the withdrawal of Soviet military troops if it is done parallel to the evacuation of the U.S. air and naval base at Guantanamo.

The declaration emphasized the case of a combat brigade estimated at 3,000 men stationed in Cuba since 1962, which according to observers was the Soviet guarantee for the fulfillment of the promise not to invade Cuba made by U.S. President John Kennedy after the missile crisis of that year.

For the Cuban Government, the withdrawal of the brigade is the equivalent of giving the United States "a green light for its aggressive plans" against the Castro revolution.

According to observers, Nikolayenko's mission in Havana will be made more difficult following the statements made in Moscow on 20 September by Soviet Defense Minister Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

According to the top Soviet officer, "the problem of the U.S. military presence in Guantanamo is an exclusive issue between Washington and Havana."

The Cuban authorities did not react immediately to the statements made by Shaposhnikov.

The Soviet defense minister also mentioned figures that add some confusion to the matter, when he said his country wishes to withdraw "between 5,000 and 10,000" troops from Cuba.

The first figure mentioned by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last week was "some 11,000," which was immediately considered by the Cuban authorities as "exaggerated."

Diplomats and observers believe that the 11,000 figure could only be reached by adding the combat brigade, military advisers, personnel from a Soviet electronic listening station, civilian collaborators, and all of their relatives.

It is strange, but diplomatic officials have noted that neither the Soviets nor the Americans have mentioned, when referring to the topic of the Soviet military withdrawal from Cuba, the electronic listening station, which specializes in the surveillance of U.S. military communications.

Havana Reports Talks

PA2309151291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1403 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Valeriy Nikolayenko, Soviet deputy foreign minister, has begun his official talks with Cuban authorities in Havana. Prior to traveling to Cuba, Nikolayenko said in Moscow he was planning to negotiate several bilateral issues, including the progressive withdrawal of Soviet troops from Cuba.

Soviet Withdrawal, Guantanamo Base Discussed

PA2109133091 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The United States will not abandon its naval base at Cuba's Guantanamo Bay—which the United States occupies illegally—despite the calls that Soviet authorities have made in that regard when they unilaterally and without prior consultation announced the withdrawal of Soviet military personnel from the island.

The U.S. position, which does not surprise Cuba, was ratified by U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney in an interview published Wednesday by JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, a British magazine.

Perhaps some people in the Soviet Union and outside that multinational state had harbored hopes that Washington would change its intransigent attitude toward Havana, but life shows that it is very dangerous to be naive.

I do not have the slightest intention of changing the base's status, Cheney said during an exclusive interview he granted to the magazine. This is the U.S. authorities' answer to Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin linking his country's decision to withdraw its military personnel from Cuba to wishes that the United States respond in kind, with positive steps.

As stated in an editorial in the newspaper GRANMA, official mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba, Soviet expectations were, in any event, extremely modest. As the editorial states, it was left to the United States to decide what to do, and it is customary for that country to change its mind on any subject, especially now that it feels it is master of the world.

Meanwhile, the steps the Soviet Union has declared it is prepared to take would be irreversible and unconditional. Cuba has not been fooled. It knows very well that the U.S. objective is to asphyxiate the revolutionary process, now more than ever, when it believes that the island has been forsaken following the collapse of Soviet socialism and in view of the difficulties currently being experienced in Soviet-Cuban relations.

Cuban personnel are completely in charge of the defense of the Cuban territory around the Guantanamo base. The same is true for the rest of the archipelago, where there is a defense system based on the gradual mobilization of all the people in case of foreign aggression.

Following the Soviet declaration, made without any prior notification to Cuba, and following Cheney's declaration, it has become necessary to negotiate the withdrawal of both the Soviet brigade and the Guantanamo Naval Base under U.S. control despite Cuban opposition.

U.S. Reportedly Trying To Strengthen Blockade

FL2109130991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] While the U.S. Congress is studying a law aimed at strengthening the economic blockade againt Cuba, the Bush administration has indicated that it will maintain the strict measures against our country. The Senate and the House of Representatives are debating two similar bills which ban all subsidiaries of U.S. companies in third countries from sending or selling their products to Cuba.

For her part, Carla Hills, U.S. trade representative, denied that the United States would change its position regarding trade with Cuba. Last year, the U.S. Congress approved an identical bill being discussed, now called the Mack Amendment, but President George Bush did not ratify it at the recommendation of the State Department which received numerous complaints from many who would be affected by the measures. Its allies were among them.

The UN General Assembly agreed to discuss this week the request made by Cuba for the end of the U.S. blockade.

Envoy on UN Decision To Discuss U.S. Embargo

PA2109013691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0013 GMT 21 Sep 91

[From the "Our Correspondents' Report" by Urbino Amaya]

[Text] On 20 September, the UN General Assembly decided to discuss the unjust economic blockade that the United States has maintained against Cuba for more

than 30 years. In statements for our correspondent in New York, Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, has said:

[Begin Alarcon recording] I believe that the UN General Assembly's unanimous decision today to discuss the topic—the need to put an end to the U.S. economic, trade, and financial blockade against Cuba—is an important step in the long struggle of our people, with the solidarity and support of peoples throughout the planet, to eliminate this unjust, criminal, and totally unjustified policy that U.S. imperialism has maintained against Cuba for more than three decades.

The U.S. representatives adopted a position that everyone read; immediately, only hours after Cuba had presented its request in August, the U.S. Department of State publicly and officially announced its opposition to the discussion of this topic by claiming that it was outside UN jurisdiction. That criteria was reaffirmed—we could say that for a reason of quote principles unquote—by the U.S. delegate at a UN General Assembly table meeting.

Nevertheless, it did not...[pauses] despite all its power and all the influence that the United States wields at the United Nations, it dared not specifically propose that the Cuban motion be rejected. There is a simple reason for this. They were aware that they would have not obtained the necessary number of votes to prevent the discussion of this topic. There would have been far from a majority of votes and the United States would have been dealt another blow. Moreover, they would have opened the doors for a debate on the blockade against Cuba, which is precisely what they want to avoid.

The main U.S. goal is to prevent the discussion of this topic, that it not see public light, and that it not be debated. They could not prevent that. They will now try to ensure that this subject has the lowest profile possible, with the least participation possible, and with the least interest possible.

We are certain, now that we are entering the second phase of our struggle, that we will also defeat them there, and that the UN General Assembly, for the first time in history, will conduct an in- depth discussion on this topic and voice its revulsion toward a policy that nobody else on this planet is defending at this time but the United States. [end recording]

Havana TV: 'Defense Will Never Be Neglected'

FL2009181191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The defense of the fatherland will never be neglected. This task will always have the necessary resources. Our people understand this. There may be a fuel shortage but the MiG's will not stop flying over the skies and will continue their sleepless vigilance day and night.

Fighter planes and their crews undergo rigorous training in all of our bases. Pilots and mechanics as well as all the auxiliary personnel have the necessary fuel resources to guarantee a high combat readiness. They are carrying out numerous saving initiatives without this meaning, of course, that the fighters are abandoning their scouting, training, and airspace protection missions.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] They [not further specified] have always been defended and will continue to be defended whether we are in a special or normal period.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you flying normally?

[Second speaker] We are flying normally, as we have always done.

[Reporter] Have the flights been limited because of lack of fuel?

[Third speaker] At present, fuel is guaranteed to fulfill the missions of the supply and aviation units. In order to guarantee the activities during this special period our country is experiencing, we have conducted a number of initiatives to reduce fuel consumption. Here we are next to an electric-generated equipment that consumes a large amount of fuel. We have worked on a number of projects to reduce this. For example, a gas-generator is used. This can reduce fuel consumption by 50 percent by using gas.

[Fourth speaker] We are fatherland or death pilots here. We are pilots of socialism, the commander in chief, and the revolution.

[Reporter] In spite of the fuel limitations that could exist?

[Fourth speaker] In spite of everything. We are well prepared for any contingency. I can give you my assurances. [end recording]

PCC Congress Preparations 'Successfully Completed'

PA2209225991 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The basic documents to be examined by the delegates to the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the materials needed for the congress are all ready. Less than three weeks before the beginning of that important meeting, it can be said that all preparations have been successfully completed.

The congress, where important national issues will be discussed, is a challenge in view of the deterioration of the economic situation that has resulted from the maladjustments provoked by the dissolution of socialism. If to this we add the difficulties in relations with the Soviet Union, the worsening of the U.S. harassment against Cuba, and the impossibility of successfully culminating important economic plans due to a lack of fuel and spare

parts, then we can well imagine the adverse circumstances under which the organizers of the Cuban Communists' congress have labored.

However, the goal of improving Cuban-style socialism and of setting aside the problems transferred to our country by trying to copy foreign experiences prevails in the minds of everyone responsible for the Fourth Congress. The organizing committee has examined the material on the agenda, which includes guidelines for drafting new party statutes, as well as discussing the principles of the program orientation of the revolution in the current historical stage and the circumstances of the special period during peacetime.

Likewise, the organizing committee has determined the priorities and programs for the economic development of the country under the present circumstances, and it has reviewed several recommendations so that the parliament will adopt operational changes in line with the needs and opinions of the voters.

The delegates to the Fourth Congress of the PCC will enrich the aforementioned draft documents when they contribute their opinions and suggestions or voice their points of view, which do not all necessarily agree. Naturally, the economy will probably occupy most of their attention during the meeting.

The Cubans trust the delegates will know how to adopt a line of action for the remainder of 1991 and for 1992.

Castro Presides Over Congress Committee Meeting

FL2109121791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] The organizing committee of the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Congress, presided over by Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, met on 18, 19, and 20 September. The meeting was called to examine the draft resolutions that will be submitted to the congress.

The committee examined the documents pertaining to the agenda which includes the guidelines for a new drafting of the PCC's statutes, the principles regarding the direction of the revolution's program during these current historic times and under the circumstances of the special period, a set of recommendations to the National Assembly on alternatives and options for the perfecting of the People's Government, and the foundations of the priorities and programs for the economic development of the country under the current circumstances.

The submitted drafts took into account the experiences and results of the rectification process, the external factors that affect our prospects in the short- and medium-term, the suggestions made by over 3.5 million people who participated in the discussion of the call for the Fourth PCC Congress, and the number of directives and guidelines of Comrade Fidel and the leadership of the PCC currently in effect.

In the next few days, the resolution drafts will be subjected to a preliminary review by the delegates to the congress in their respective provinces so that they have enough time to study them, ask for clarification, and formulate proposals. The documents will be presented, debated, and submitted for the approval of the Fourth PCC Congress plenum scheduled to begin on 10 October.

The committee agreed to convey the appreciation of the Cuban Communists to all the parties, movements, and groups of various organizations and political inclinations that have expressed their solidarity with the Cuban revolution in the face of the increased hostility of the U.S. Government and demanded the end of the inhumane economic blockade imposed on our people and the return of the territory illegally occupied by the Yankee military enclave in Guantanamo.

The committee also ratified the decision that the PCC Congress, which should be held under the strictest conditions of austerity and modesty and should dedicate itself with firmness of principles, realism, and creativity to the analysis of the fundamental problems the country is facing, have an internal character. Therefore, no invitations will be extended to foreign organizations. The committee trusts that our brothers in the struggle and friends in the entire world will understand.

The organizing committee reaffirmed the deepest conviction that the results of the Fourth PCC Congress will be a step forward in the perfecting of socialism under the specific conditions our country is facing and will significantly contribute to the preparation of all the people to fulfill the most sacred of our duties: save the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism.

Havana, 20 September 1991, 33d year of the revolution.

Election of PCC Central Committee Members Viewed

PA2209021591 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1409 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] On 10 October Cuba, a country that is closed to all changes according to the Western press, will be the scene of an extremely important political event. This event is the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Congress, whose delegates were chosen in an unprecedented manner under the close scrutiny of all the people.

At manufacturing plants; shops; and educational, research, and service centers, millions of Cubans for the first time expressed their opinions of the Congress' delegates proposed by the party's rank and file cells. During the consultations held with workers as part of this process, 46,353 [as heard] candidates were presented. Of these, 12 were discussed. Four of the 12 were confirmed and eight were finally rejected. In addition, and as a reward for increasingly superior performance, 600 labor centers were given the opportunity to select

directly one delegate each without any higher-ranking official allowed to veto the selection. The members of the new PCC Central Committee will be elected by the Congress delegates, who will examine a list with the names of 500 candidates drawn by provincial assemblies from a list of 11,200 militants approved by the rank and file. According to instructions from the party's topmost leadership, the candidates to the Central Committee must be prominent PCC members with outstanding work performance, good human and family relationships, and a revolutionary background consistent with their age. This last requirement is important because it defeats the arguments of the extremely demanding members who would like to turn down young candidates who are highly productive, have rendered adequate service, and have distinguished themselves in missions abroad but who, because of their youth, did not participate in the outstanding events of the revolution's early decisive years. At the majestic Santiago de Cuba theater, the site of the Congress, there are seats reserved for the new generation. The new generation is committed to the new political process in progress but its views do not necessarily coincide with those of its elders.

The new generation's refreshing stand will be integrated without any trouble into that of the older and more experienced active members. Cuba's critical situation demands concurrent views and constructive discussion.

Havana TV Reports on Noriega Trial

FL2009193791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The trial against Manuel Antonio Noriega, former chief of the Panama Defense Forces, has been continued until 23 September because of personal problems of one of the prosecutors. For this reason Luis Cid, former member of the Panamanian Air Force, could not finish his testimony. The U.S. Government reduced his fraud and drug trafficking charges in exchange for his testimony. In his last appearance, the former officer explained at length how Noriega came to power but did not make a single reference to cocaine or money from drugs as he had done the previous day.

The U.S. Government offered some 80 detainees reduced sentences or dropped charges in exchange for their appearance in court. The defense is confident in the strength of its case and does not rule out the possibility of calling CIA members to testify on the shady business Noriega is accused of carrying out.

Secretariat Protests Incident at U.S. Border

PA2109035191 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0225 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] The Foreign Relations Secretariat has reported that the Mexican Embassy in Washington presented a diplomatic note to the State Department voicing its vigorous protest and asking the Government of the United States of America to investigate a serious incident that occurred on 14 September near the Tijuana Customs House—the official communique states—when border patrol agents and immigration officials of that country entered Mexican territory through the lookout post at Puerto Mexico. They were pursuing an individual whom they captured and took to the United States.

In this action, the Foreign Relations Secretariat adds, the foreign agents attacked immigration and customs officials of the Mexican Government. In its diplomatic note, Mexico points out that this is a very serious incident and a serious blow to the good-neighbor policy and level of understanding reached by Mexico-U.S. relations.

In presenting its vigorous protest—the official Foreign Relations Secretariat communique states—the Mexican Government asked the U.S. Government to investigate the incident through an independent authority that will determine responsibility.

Policy Toward Cuba To Remain 'Unchanged'

PA2109185691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0158 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Assistant Foreign Secretary Javier Barros Valero said in Mexico City today that Mexico's foreign policy with regard to Cuba will remain unchanged, in keeping with the principles of respect and people's right to self-determination.

The course the island follows should be decided by its inhabitants, but Mexico's respect and support will prevail, the official said in his speech at the first "Young Mexico" forum underway in the Mexican capital.

I believe that Mexico could become Cuba's worldwide mediator as long as the Cuban Government requests it.

Meanwhile, he explained that Mexico is attempting to become involved and to influence the changes that are currently underway around the world.

"Mexico has had to change its strategy to participate in this new (international) process."

The formation of new blocs, detente, and economic openings offer new alternatives for worldwide development, but they also represent considerable risks for various nations, Barros Valero said.

He underscored that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's government has restated its international involvement, stressing relations with its neighbors (the United States, Guatemala, and Belize), but respecting their basic rights.

Relations between Mexico and the United States fall within the framework of a new strategy in which inevitable problems are resolved through dialogue and the acknowledgement of differences and agreement, he said.

Toward this effect, Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche said that competitiveness is the focal point in establishing a free trade treaty or commercial blocs anywhere around the world.

We need specialized economies in which small- and medium-sized companies find the elements that will render them capable of attending to their markets, changing their technological procedures, and gaining access to an open and little controlled market, Serra Puche said.

Speaking before Roger Wallace, the U.S. commercial representative in Mexico, and Canadian Ambassador David J. Winfield, Serra Puche underscored that the EEC, as well as the Pacific Basin, meet these requirements, which will allow them to reach high levels of internal development.

The U.S. market will also seek this with Mexico, Canada, and the United States, he stressed.

The Canadian ambassador said that the signing of a commercial treaty in the United States will initiate a new phase in the relations of the member countries, adding that this will be possible thanks to the reforms implemented by Mexican President Salinas de Gortari's government.

Belize

Mexican President Arrives for Independence Events

FL2009214791 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Belize City, Belize, Sept 20, CANA—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived here Friday to be a guest of honour at ceremonies on Saturday marking Belize's tenth anniversary of independence from Britain. The president leads a delegation which will sign trade and cultural agreements. Included is a deal offering 5 million US dollars' credit from Bancomex to the Central Bank of Belize.

President Salinas was welcomed at the international airport here by Prime Minister George Price, who referred to the long-standing friendship with Mexico, which was the first country to recognise Belize at the United Nations.

The Honduran president, Rafael Callejas, is also expected to arrive early Saturday morning to join other visitors from the Caribbean and the rest of the world for the official ceremomy in front of the Supreme Court.

Signs Cooperation Agreements

PA2209044991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0045 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Belmopan, 20 Sep (NOTIMEX)—According to an official communique, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Belizean Prime Minister George Price on 20 September signed nine cooperation agreements as part of the festivities to mark the 10th anniversary of Belize's independence.

The agreements cover—among others—the fields of energy, health, tourism, ecology, education, and immigration.

Salinas de Gortari said that for Mexico his visit represents its desire to promote even closer relations with Belize. "We attach much importance to this great neighboring country. We know that a more intense relationship with Belize will undoubtedly benefit both our nations," Salinas de Gortari said.

The Mexican president also inaugurated the monument commemorating the 10th anniversary of Belize's independence. He placed the first stone of the Mexican Embassy in Belmopan, the country's capital.

In Belize City, located 80 km north of Belmopan, Salinas de Gortari inaugurated a bust of former Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos at the park that will also bear the former president's name. He also placed the first stone of the House of Culture.

Prime Minister on Relations With Guatemala

PA2209022091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1902 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Belize City, 20 Sep (ACAN-EFE) Belizean Prime Minister George Price said today that the establishment of relations with Guatemala announced last week does not fully resolve the territorial dispute with that country but constitutes the basis for continuing the talks and reaching an agreement soon.

Price told ACAN-EFE that Belize "is prepared" to reach an agreement on Guatemala's requests soon. He said he was convinced that the Guatemalan Government is equally prepared to do so.

Guatemala, which had been claiming the territory of Belize as its own since the last century when that area was a British colony, had refused to recognize the independence of that small English-speaking country. Guatemalans want "a free passage to the sea (the Caribbean), the use of Belizean ports, and a network of roads through Belizean territory so that Peten Deparment can have an outlet to the sea," the prime minister explained. Peten Department, on the border with Belize, is very rich in resources but lacks links with central Guatemala. Therefore, it needs an outlet to the sea for its products.

Price also said that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano will visit "Belize in the near future." The Guatemalan president called off his scheduled visit to Belize's capital city, Belmopan, this week. His trip was cancelled because of pressures from political and social sectors, as well as from cabinet officials, who were critical of the visit and the establishment of relations with that country.

Guatemalan Ambassador to Belize Gonzalo Bueso, who was appointed this week, told ACAN-EFE that Serrano has scheduled a visit in principle for November and Price has also been invited to visit Guatemala.

Belize is a former British colony with a population of a little less than 200,000. It measures 22,000 square kilometers. On 21 September it will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its independence and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Honduran President Rafael Callejas, and Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley will all be present.

El Salvador

'Part' of FMLN Truce Proposal Presented to UN

PA2009154191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Report by Mauricio Ramirez and Julio Ernesto Rodriguez]

[Text] This station has received part of the document or the proposal presented by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas to the UN Secretariat concerning a one-year cease-fire proposal.

The document states, in part:

Introduction:

The purpose of the truce is to stop the armed confrontation and put an end to bloodshed and destruction in the country, thus creating better conditions for the negotiating process and political resolution of the conflict.

In this regard, a truce would permit the fulfillment of commitments on topics that have already been agreed upon, the establishment of deadlines for commitments already accepted, and the continuation of negotiations on pending matters, but without war.

The truce would initially involve the suspension of the armed confrontation based on the simple concept to gradually working toward a more organized and definitive cease-fire according to the progress made in the negotiations, the implementation of agreements, and the resolution of aspects that are inherent to the conditions of a suspension of armed confrontation.

During the time the truce is in effect, the two parties should make progress in or complete all the negotiations. The idea is that points pending in the negotiations or aspects that have not been defined with regard to the characteristics of a cease-fire should not become obstacles in the effort to silence the weapons and create a different climate within the negotiations.

The truce presupposes an act of goodwill on both sides, as they end the war and abandon any intention of winning it or improving positions at the expense of the adversary. Consequently, the two parties would be affirming the well-known concept that there can be no victors and that a political solution is in order.

This means that operations, actions, and the movement of military forces in areas where they can be viewed as provocations or efforts to disturb the peace must end.

The document adds that the truce would respond to the national and international clamor for the war to end. Therefore, the truce is a historic opportunity that should not be ignored.

The truce would result in immediate democratic changes based on agreements that have already been reached. It would also allow political and social forces to play an important role so that they can employ their full capacity amid a time of peace to contribute to the negotiations, a definite end to the conflict, and the democratization of El Salvador.

With regard to the military aspects this would involve, the FMLN stated: The contents of the initial proposal would be temporarily set aside, leaving cease-fire issues that have not been settled at the negotiating table to be resolved as progress is made. It added that some other attempt to resolve these problems would block or make it impossible to reach an agreement.

In general terms, the truce would involve:

1. The suspension of operations and offensive patrols throughout the territory.

2. The demilitarization of the capital and the country's largest cities.

3. The suspension of all urban military operations or incursions by the FMLN in the capital and the interior.

4. The suspension of sabotage of electrical installations and any other form of military sabotage of the economy.

Both sides would suspend attacks on bases and permanent or traditional positions held by their adversary and would avoid establishing positions where they have not held them before. This would result in the people being free to travel and the mobilization of merchandise throughout the territory. Services such as electricity, water, communications, transportation, postal services, and other civilian services rendered by the mayors' offices in areas where they had been suspended because of the war would be restored.

In conclusion, the document on the one-year truce notes that once the forces settle in the places they usually inhabit and operations by the Salvadoran Armed Forces [FAES] and the FMLN cease, negotiations will continue to establish a more orderly and secure separation of the forces, specifying locations, movements, limitations on mobility, and which activities are and are not permitted. This will be done so that progress can be made to move from a truce to a final cease-fire according to the deadlines set for the implementation of the political agreements.

The document includes a proposal for FMLN participation in the FAES. Some of these points concerning guerrilla participation in the Salvadoran Army state:

1. A commission in charge of the transition process will be created. It will supervise compliance with the agreements and settle any conflicts that may arise. This commission will include political parties, the FMLN, the FAES, and the Salvadoran Government. Its members will be considered government officials and will be representatives at the highest level.

2. There will be guarantees for the return of officers who had to remain in exile because of their progressive ideas and their reincorporation into the FAES.

3. Civilian personnel proposed by the FMLN and the political parties will be appointed to hold leadership posts and form part of the new national civilian police.

4. The FMLN war disabled will be fully incorporated into the state's health benefits system. Benefits will be extended to their relatives and to the mothers of dead FMLN fighters.

5. In areas of greater FMLN historic presence, the new national civilian police will consist of FMLN combatants and civilians of those zones.

6. A national defense council in charge of drafting the new doctrines for national defense and public security of the FAES and the national civilian police will be created. This council will have a pluralistic nature. It will include the political parties, the FMLN, the government, and the FAES.

7. A civilian as defense minister chosen by a consensus reached by the FAES, the government, the political parties, and the FMLN will be appointed.

8. The Legislative Assembly's reforms will be observed when making promotions within the Armed Forces, including promotions to general.

9. The Legislative Assembly's Commission on Defense and Public Security will be reorganized to guarantee its efficient operation according to a separation of duties—defense will be the task of the FAES and public security will be the responsibility of the national civilian police.

10. The civilian nature of the position of FAES inspector general position will be established. The inspector general will be appointed by a consensus of all political parties represented in the Assembly.

This is part of the document that the FMLN presented to the UN Secretariat.

Deputies React

PA2009225691 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] The apparent proposal of a yearlong truce by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, was received with skepticism by the government and by politicians favoring a definitive cease-fire conducive to peace.

Deputy Rafael Moran Orellana of the PCN [National Conciliation Party] questioned the seriousness of the proposed yearlong truce, calling instead for a definitive end to the strife.

"The people can no longer stand this war; a truce, however, does not guarantee the end of violence," Moran Orellana said, adding that a cease-fire should be signed so that the country can enter the phase of rebuilding all that has been destroyed by the attacks on the country's infrastructure.

Guillermo Guevara Lacayo of the MAC [Authentic Christian Movement] added to this view that a truce would be untimely because it would not necessarily lead to peace and could serve as a "breather" before violence is intensified.

The proposed truce is a tactical move by the FMLN to gain time, resolve internal problems, increase their weapons supply, and await greater concessions from the government, Guevara Lacayo underscored.

For Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Deputy Jose Francisco Guerrero, the Geneva Agreement signed by the government and FMLN only contemplates a cease-fire. Therefore, to speak of a truce is to include a new concept that is not in the peace talks agenda, he said.

Guerrero said that before agreeing to a truce, which would prolong the peace process, the Geneva Agreement would first have to be reformed with the consent of both the government and FMLN.

Nevertheless, in a telephone interview from New York, Oscar Santamaria, head of the Salvadoran Government peace commission, informed EL DIARIO DE HOY that the subversives have not officially proposed a truce and that the UN is not aware of such an offer either.

"We will not accept a truce, but a verified definitive cease-fire" that will lead to firm and lasting peace, Santamaria said.

Santamaria noted that the FMLN has always violated truces, which renders the organization untrustworthy.

FMLN's Handal on Perez de Cuellar Proposal

PA2009221291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Radio Farabundo Marti has received important reports today, 19 September, on what is happening at UN headquarters in New York. As we were about to conclude today's broadcast, we learned this afternoon from open sources that the government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command delegations held direct talks for the first time to discuss the proposal submitted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The FMLN General Command has publicly announced its acceptance of the proposal. Here are the remarks made today by Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, of the FMLN General Command, regarding the proposal by UN Secretary General Perez.

[Begin Handal recording] The proposal contains verification mechanisms and guarantees for the incorporation of the FMLN into civilian life and political activities of the country. It does not mention an immediate cease-fire or the demobilization of the FMLN. I must insist on this point—the proposal does not mention an immediate cease-fire or the demobilization of the FMLN. We can call this a thought-provoking proposal for the transition period that goes from the [word indistinct] until an agreement is reached.

That is all I can say in general terms. Mr. Perez' proposal also touches on some key aspects, which are stalling the negotiations and are related to the topic of the two armies. As I said, this is what I can tell you in very broad

terms, regarding Mr. Perez' initiative. We have accepted that initiative, although we made some minor changes and observations.

We feel this proposal is really positive and constitutes a good contribution by the UN secretary general. In fact, it may contribute to generate an environment favorable to overcoming the stalemate in the negotiations. Not just the FMLN, but all the people of El Salvador, are interested in overcoming this stalemate.

It is necessary to discuss and study the proposal for a one-year truce. We have not submitted this proposal to the secretary general, although we are willing to have a truce, as it will help to improve the environment of the negotiations. The objective of this truce is [17-second break in transmission]...in New York, was from the start constructive and positive, and we wanted to contribute all we can to overcome the stalemate. We do not just want to overcome the stalemate but to make progress in the negotiations. [end recording]

Government, Guerrilla Talks at UN Updated

PA2209145091 Paris AFP in Spanish 2304 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] New York, United Nations, 21 Sep (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, after concluding another meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, stated that he continues to be "optimistic," despite the fact that an agreement with the guerrilla commanders has not yet been reached.

Diplomatic sources have pointed out that the prolonged sessions initially appeared promising, however, the differences related to the guarantees demanded by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] had not yet been resolved.

Shortly before starting a second round of separate talks on the afternoon of 21 September, the secretary general stated that "evidently there are differences and we should not expect miracles."

Upon concluding the meeting, President Cristiani pointed out that the "process continues" and that he would remain in New York until 23 September, when he is scheduled to speak before the UN General Assembly immediately after his colleague, Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello.

The obvious lack of results from the talks on 21 September has caused a decline in the diplomatic climate of optimism, despite indications that it would be possible to adopt a basic document covering the guarantees extended to the guerrillas.

According to the sources, in a gesture of flexibility, which has eased the tension at the negotiations, the FMLN commanders have ceased to insist on their original demand of incorporating some of its members into the Armed Forces.

The main difference is related to the composition of the future Salvadoran police; the FMLN is demanding the inclusion of part of its members, while the government would rather establish member criteria and avoid "quotas."

'Agreement' Possible

PA2209190091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1809 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] United Nations, 22 Sep (EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said today that "positive progress" has been made in the consultations he and the guerrillas have made separately at the United Nations and that some agreement will "possibly" be reached on 22 September.

Cristiani, who went to see UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar after the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) commanders left his office, added that "new formulas are being examined."

On his part, chief FMLN negotiator Jorge Shafik Handal said that there are "possibilities" for surpassing the difficulties in the negotiations. He pointed out that in any "variant solution" that is adopted, the guerrillas will maintain their truce proposal to give the process a "favorable" framework in the "concise" stage for negotiating a final agreement.

Since 16 September the leaders of the two parties involved in the Salvadoran conflict have been meeting separately every day with Perez de Cuellar in an attempt to unblock the negotiations for an agreement that will put an end to the civil war that has disrupted 75,000 lives in the past 11 years.

The two parties said on 22 September they have "good faith" for reaching some agreement in this round that, according to diplomatic sources, must yield some results today as the 46th UN General Assembly begins on 23 September and Cristiani is scheduled to speak in the morning.

The Salvadoran president did not want to comment on the topics of discussion, but he ruled out a direct meeting between the two delegations this afternoon when the consultations will be resumed.

The crucial point of the meetings are the guarantees demanded by the FMLN for rejoining Salvadoran society. It has been learned that the guerrillas are no longer demanding including some of their leaders in the Armed Forces leadership—something the government and the Army have rejected—but in turn, have asked to be included in the new civilian police.

The UN representatives of the "friends of the secretary general," (Spain, Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela) who are helping Perez de Cuellar in his mediation efforts in the Salvadoran conflict, went today to the United Nations for consultations.

Sources close to these four countries said that the talks are progressing and are doing better than yesterday when they reached a deadlock, but not as well as at the beginning of this round of talks. The representatives of the four countries are expected to return to the United Nations for more consultations this afternoon.

It is possible that, if the two parties reach some agreement, it will not be made public until Cristiani announces it during his speech tomorrow before the UN General Assembly, where he will follow the first speaker, Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello.

National Army for Democracy Issues Communique

PA2209153891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Communique issued by the National Army for Democracy on 19 September—read by Commander Salvador Guerra of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front from Mexico City; live or recorded telephone relay; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...is ready for peace and for war. The National Army for Democracy [EDN] General Staff announces the following to the nation and the international community:

1. Our troops have complied with the unilateral truce decreed by our General Command because of the round of negotiations being held in New York. The truce involves a suspension of our offensive operations and the defense of territories under our control.

2. Since the beginning of the truce, the Armed Forces launched simultaneous military operations in Chalatenago, Morazan, Guazapa, Cinquera, northern San Vicente, and Usulutan. The military operations include bombings and artillery fire, the landing of airborne troops, and the deployment of the Armed Forces complete operational force.

3. In compliance with the order to defend the territories under our control, our troops have been weakening the invading forces.

4. Because we are strong, we declare ourselves ready for peace and for war. It is up to our enemy. If they want war, they shall have war.

[Signed] EDN General Staff

[Issued] Mexico City, 19 September 1991

FMLN Commander Villalobos on Achieving Peace

PA2209135491 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Part two of 'article' by Joaquin Villalobos, commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front: "Peace: To Accept Reality and Turn It Into Agreements"]

[Text] Politically speaking, it is practically impossible to trust the Army and to think that its changes will become acceptable as a result of its purge and reduction of forces. We must bear in mind that the Salvadoran right-wing groups, whose role throughout history within the Army has proved that they are capable of perpetrating the worst atrocities and the most arbitrary actions. Therefore, it would be suicide to grant them an advantage by giving them the chance to (?impose) military control over society.

It is no secret that the military control drug trafficking, contraband, the immigration of illegal aliens to the United States, prostitution networks, and the kidnapping of businessmen. It would be a fantasy to imagine that a police force comprised of the same military members would capture an officer for a common crime—but it is a more unbelievable fantasy to believe that they will capture and persecute the officer for political crimes.

We must remember that, when the war started, the Army was perhaps smaller than it is now and it was more, or equally, murderous. We have passed the stage in which agreements can be based on trust. A change in military power simply based on the current commanders and officers—who are either good, bad, or mediocre—would protect the Army's anticivilian and antidemocratic roots, which would not be a guarantee for anyone. Furthermore, international guarantees are not moral guarantees and agreements representing a law and a theory are not a guarantee either. Practical guarantees based on the balance of power between the parties represent the only sure thing.

The United States has offered itself as a guarantor, but it is clear that once a different situation—other than the current war—is achieved, it will not care how many die or who dies, and it will not care about the country's economic and social problems, either. The United States tried unsuccessfully to implement reforms in the judicial system for 10 years. Nevertheless, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] managed to negotiate the groundwork for those reforms with the war.

In sum, pluralism and the direct intervention of the civilian society and the FMLN in the reforms to the military portion of our society will be the only thing that guarantees neutrality; the only thing that creates trust; and the only practical and viable thing in a situation marked by a military deadlock.

Part Three on Military

PA2309025991 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Part three of article by Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN: "Peace: To Accept Reality and Turn It Into Agreements"]

[Text] The existence of military interests on both sides, which have an effect on the negotiations, is obvious. On the side of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] we must take into account that 10 years of war have generated a set of interests that have a specific weight on the negotiations and upon which no decisions can be imposed, unless they are made according to what is now the fruit of that effort.

We cannot ask that the military forces of the FMLN, after having constituted an army, be left disarmed and surviving as civilians. After 10 or more years of war, they have, in fact, become professional soldiers. If there were to be no more army, that would be acceptable. Unilateral disarmament, however, is unacceptable. One could mistakenly think that this is ideological stubbornness, or the exclusive defense of personal interests. It is, instead, the expression of a structural problem that, if not resolved, will have no solution.

The insurgent military force is mostly comprised of peasants. There is an almost indissoluble unity between the insurgent forces and the strategic interests of the peasants, which are not only expressed in the conflict areas, but across the entire territory. This explains why the FMLN never stops replenishing its rank and file. The peasant social base in general knows that in the existence of the insurgence military force lies the assurance that the land they have won will not be taken from them and the guarantee legitimizing it and of attaining more. The government Army, meanwhile, has made it very clear to the peasants that it represents the landowners by evicting them from occupied farmlands, imposing low wages, and so on.

From this, one could conclude that the unilateral disarmament of the FMLN would work against the economic and social interests of the peasants and that those interests are reflected by the military sector of the FMLN.

If we analyze the country's history, and especially the past 10 years, we will see that the only guarantee that the peasant's interests will be respected is the army to which they gave birth. This is much clearer, now that many officers and military chiefs of the government's army have become landowners and the [Nationalist Republican Alliance] ARENA is seeking to repeal the land reform program and refuses to carry out its second phase.

To say no to the participation proposal for academic reasons, after almost 10,000 deaths, is far below any logical reasoning to resolve the problem. After 10 years of a war such as the one we have seen in this country, it is ridiculous to use professional peacetime concepts, when the problem lies in the existence of academy soldiers with a higher cultural level, but who were unable to attain a military victory. They could not defeat soldiers such as those of the FMLN who were formed in combat and most of whom are of peasant origin.

We could conclude at this point by saying that the military problem must be resolved based on political criteria. It is not a matter of granting individual economic guarantees of survival but of preserving a balance that will grant military assurances to two forces that were unable to defeat each other.

Part Four on Disarmament

PA2309034391 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Part four of article by Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN: "Peace: To Accept Reality and Turn It Into Agreements"]

[Text] The aspects concerning correlation, guarantees, and interests are contained in the previous points. Perhaps the most solid argument, however, in favor of the idea that a unilateral disarmament is not possible and that it is essential that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] participate in the Armed Forces transformation process, along with the rest of civilian society, is that it is the only sure way to achieve true peace. To try this from a different angle would be impractical, from all points of view. It would lead to more war and destabilization.

The first question to be answered upon proposing unilateral disarmament is: Who will take the weapons away from the soldiers of the FMLN? How will they be taken? In the case that such an order is given, how many would comply and how many would disobey? Who can enforce it? In the case of Colombia, the insurgent forces were divided and had not reached the level of fighting that has been reached in El Salvador. In Nicaragua, the contras were mostly a mercenary force in exile. They would collapse when they were not paid their salaries and even then territorial aspects had to be considered militarily.

This is completely different in the case of the FMLN. The image of an FMLN fighter turning over his weapon is incompatible with El Salvador. Let us imagine that a disarmament agreement is reached with the FMLN. This would possibly demoralize and weaken the FMLN, but the majority would remain armed, and with economic, social, and political reasons to continue fighting. The extremist sectors of the Army and the right-wing would see this as the right opportunity to annihilate the FMLN. That, in addition to the reaction of the FMLN forces, would turn the agreement into the beginning of another war.

Until now, the war is coherent and manageable within a negotiating process. If, however, agreements are reached that do not contribute toward achieving peace, we would only be opening the way for an uncontrollable war. The FMLN forces have annihilated entire battalions, occupied and destroyed strategic headquarters, and repeatedly defeated the Army. They have exercised authority in many places around the country, and the people recognize that authority. Under conditions of war, these forces hold political and military advantages. If the

negotiations should call for them to surrender these advantages, the agreement will become impractical and will not lead to peace.

The military power of the FMLN would never accept an agreement that forces them to go back to the clandestine guerrilla activities of the 1970's. There is a very large bloody gap between the sides that would preclude either from accepting being unarmed and unprotected, when the other is institutionally armed. Defeating polarization is a very delicate process that will take time, and any intentions of imposing unilateral conditions will only bring more war.

In conclusion, it is not possible to achieve peace in a brief and convincing way after such a long and complex war. To work in this direction is to head straight for a bloody transition. The logical process is to institutionally legalize some of the weapons of the FMLN, as part of the process to disarm the conflict, achieve peace, and also reform the Army and ensure public safety.

Part Five on Government

PA2309041891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Part five and final part of article by Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN: "Peace: To Accept Reality and Turn It Into Agreements"]

[Text] It might be proposed at this time that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] pledge to disarm in the future, when the government complies with the agreements. It would be a sort of promissory note. By itself, such a step would obviously have political and military consequences on the existing correlation of forces because the FMLN's military forces would be committed and their end would be assured. In exchange for the promise of an Army that no own trusts to behave properly, the FMLN would lose the moral and political edge that supports it.

In practice, what the ARENA [National Republican Alliance] government wants is to use the negotiations to impose its views on the FMLN and in the end make as few changes as possible so that the right-wing can maintain its political, military, and economic hegemony. ARENA knows full well that an FMLN pledge to disarm would constitute a powerful psychological weapon that would embolden the Army, which in practice would refuse to participate in any social changes. ARENA, in a combination of propaganda and political and economic measures, such as the shutting off of credit, has gradually been disassembling the agrarian reform, arguing that the cooperatives system has failed. This is completely false. Something similar has happened with the IDA [Agrarian Development Institute], which the government led to bankruptcy and then said was useless, but only to justify closing it.

The right wing uses propaganda to its fullest to maintain its hegemony. One move at the negotiations, which could give them an edge in this field, is immediately taken advantage of and the negotiations fail at length. The FMLN might try to do the same as ARENA and play a trick by pledging compliance but instead trying to use this to the FMLN's advantage in the war. The FMLN might combine the repayment of the promissory note with preparation for a political and military offensive in response to ARENA's move, but then this would not be the nature of a negotiation.

We should bear in mind that in September 1989 the FMLN had the courage to say that it would accept the Army, implicitly agreeing to disarm if the government would make constitutional reforms and the High Command would be purged. Not only did they not accept but they even scorned the FMLN's proposal because they were sure the FMLN was defeated. The FMLN's estimate, however, was accurate. By turning down the FMLN's proposal, the government left the door open for the November 1989 offensive, which had already been prepared. Partial terms would have sufficed at the Costa Rican meetings of October 1989 to curb the offensive and start serious negotiations. Not even as a strategy could the FMLN play with a pledge to disarm to see whether ARENA and the Army would abide by the agreements, because this would polarize the situation even further, the war would be aggravated, and it would avail little or nothing to say that ARENA and the Armed Forces were to blame. At this time, it would be a mistake to push the negotiations to justify the war so that each side can seek to improve its own position or decide the war's outcome in its favor. Negotiations are a serious game. This implies accepting reality and turning it into agreements.

The only way for the FMLN to forsake being armed is through deep agrarian reform and radical revolutionary measures in the Armed Forces, but the oligarchs refuse to conduct the second stage of the agrarian reform and the military officers do not want to be tried for their crimes. As our people say: A dog will not eat another of its own kind and, if it does, it will not eat much. [Chucho no come chucho y, si come, no come mucho].

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Resigns Over Policy on Belize

PA2109222691 Paris AFP in Spanish 2152 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Sep (AFP)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu resigned today because of disagreements with the government of President Jorge Serrano regarding the dispute with Belize, a country which is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its independence today.

After announcing his resignation at a news conference, Arzu described as unconstitutional the request by some

opposition deputies who demanded his appearance before Congress to explain the government's position on Belize.

Since the last century Guatemala had claimed Belize, which encompasses 22,000 square km, but two weeks ago President Serrano announced the recognition of Belize's independence and the beginning of direct negotiations to end the dispute.

This announcement caused a rift between Arzu and the president and days later it was said that the foreign minister might be removed from his post. Nevertheless, the situation had appeared to return to normal.

Arzu is the leader of the National Vanguard Party (PAN), which is governing along with Serrano's Solidarity Action Movement (MAS). According to Arzu, the other members of his party in the cabinet, the ministers of communications and finance and the Central Bank president, will remain in their posts.

Government, Guerrillas Begin Human Rights Talks

PA2109013891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2104 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Sep (NOTIMEX)—On 20 September the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas voiced their optimism over the possibility of reaching an agreement on human rights during the fourth round of talks in this capital.

Delegations of the government, led by Manuel Conde, secretary general of the Presidency; and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), represented by commanders Gaspar Ilom and Rolando Moran, are reportedly participating in the talks.

In a news conference held in a Mexico City hotel, mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), emphasized the goodwill of the opposing parties.

Msgr. Quezada Toruno also expressed his hopes to attain a peace agreement between the Army and the URNG, which have been fighting a civil war in this Central American country for 30 years.

Last July the government and the URNG began to discuss the issue of respect for the individual guarantees of the Guatemalan people in the city of Queretaro, north of the Mexican capital, where they reached an agreement on the issue of democratization.

The human rights issue is the second part of the first of 11 points established in the agenda of discussion agreed upon by both parties last April in Mexico City. This agenda is aimed at attaining a firm and long-lasting peace in Guatemala.

Quezada Toruno stated that the respect for human rights is of utmost importance to continue efforts aimed at resolving the fighting between the insurgents and the Guatemalan Army, through the negotiations.

The president of the CNR concluded that, during the talks that are scheduled to end on 22 September, the government and the guerrillas must analyze and propose "serious and bold" measures "so that the people can have access to the benefits of human rights. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Honduras

Joint Honduran-Nicaraguan Declaration

PA2109150891 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2020 GMT 19 Sep 91

["Text" of joint declaration signed by Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and President Rafael Leonardo Callejas at the presidential palace in Tegucigalpa; read by unidentified government spokesman—live]

[Text] At the invitation of Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro paid a state visit to Honduras from 18 to 19 September 1991.

The Nicaraguan president's visit is a momentous event in relations between the two countries. It is intended to strengthen the friendly and fraternal ties between the Republic of Honduras and the Republic of Nicaragua and to broaden even more their relations of economic and cultural cooperation within the framework of the democratic government systems that both countries have adopted based on values such as liberty, political pluralism, and respect for and the promotion of human rights.

The presidents, recognizing that strong and harmonious relations between the states can greatly contribute toward peace in Central America, and taking into consideration the proximity of their countries and the fact that they share the same human and spiritual values, have issued the following joint declaration:

After broadly evaluating the bilateral relations, the presidents agreed to strengthen the ties of political, commercial, and cultural cooperation.

President Callejas was very pleased with the Nicaraguan president's notification that on 15 July 1991, the Nicaraguan government presented to the National Assembly a formal bill for the abrogation of Law 99 concerning the withdrawal of a lawsuit filed against Honduras in 1986 with the International Court of Justice. The National Assembly has not yet debated this bill due to discussion of other urgent matters, but hopes to do so within the next few weeks.

In reviewing the state of bilateral relations, they stressed the advancements of the Joint Commission on Maritime Affairs, which during its first meeting in Tegucigalpa

discussed various matters of common interest and approved the rules that will regulate its functioning.

The presidents mentioned the positive agreement signed by representatives of the Honduran Ministry of Natural Resources and the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries to make rational use of marine resources, for which they demanded the implementation of a closed season for lobster fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, starting in 1992. In that regard, specific dates will be decided upon by common agreement based on an analysis, which will be followed by a three-month period prior to the beginning of the closed season.

Both presidents decided to coordinate efforts to protect the environment, prevent drug trafficking and arms smuggling, resolve immigrations problems, facilitate trade and the movement of people, including simplification of immigration requirements, and control of the illegal transfer of vehicles, cattle, and other goods between the two countries and other Central American states.

Toward that end, the presidents decided to create as soon as possible a commission for border cooperation to establish effective mechanisms to face those grave problems and criminal activities in general, coordinating actions and exchanging relevant information.

With regard to drug trafficking, they strongly condemned the production, commercialization, and consumption of illegal drugs, and expressed their concern about the increase in drug trafficking and the illegal consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances. They stressed the urgent need to reduce the demand for those substances by developed nations. Likewise, they agreed on the need to implement effective controls on the chemical products used to produce illegal drugs. They also stressed the grave economic and social consequences that derive from this problem and the extortion of the countries' economies brought about by the flow of cash resulting from this illegal business.

They noted the interest of both states in strengthening the activities of the Permanent Central American Committee to eradicate the production, consumption, trafficking, and illegal use of narcotics and psychotropic substances and violent crimes. This organization is headquartered in Honduras, and its secretary is a Nicaraguan citizen.

Convinced that the regional order of natural resources and environment constitute a fundamental factor in the region's economic and social development and an important contribution to the world's economic balance, the presidents decided to implement within 60 days programs for the integrated management of forests along border areas. They also decided to strengthen mechanisms of cooperation within the framework of the Central American Environmental and Development Commission. They thanked the international donors for their support in this field and stressed the importance of the support they have received. They also expressed their interest in maintaining and increasing the levels of cooperation.

With regard to cooperation in the area of ground transportation, they expressed their satisfaction with the recent inauguration of the provisional bridge over the Guasaule River and the decision to begin construction of a permanent bridge with cooperation from the EEC, which will strengthen human and commercial ties between the two nations.

The presidents shared concern about the spread of cholera and other diseases in their respective countries. In that regard, they expressed their desire to increase cooperation on programs such as the inter-malaria program, which has been successfully implemented for several months. They agreed to expand contacts between their respective Health Ministries to exchange information on preventive measures and the spread of these diseases. They also expressed their hope that specialized international agencies would continue to contribute with technical and financial support.

Both presidents agreed that in light of the current situation of their national economies and seeking their modernization, the role of the state and the growing importance of private investment must be reconsidered to improve the conditions of efficiency and competitiveness of the respective economies.

With regard to Central America, the presidents expressed their satisfaction with the noticeable advancements of the Esquipulas II Agreements, particularly as related to the national reconciliation processes.

In addition, they reiterated their support for the agreements reached at the Central American summits, particularly the initiative adopted in the Puntarenas Declaration of 17 September 1990, which declared the Central American Isthmus a region of peace, liberty, democracy, and development.

With this spirit, they reaffirmed their government's decision to contribute to the consolidation of democracy in the region, as well as respect for the principles of nonintervention and self-determination. They also voiced the need to continue efforts to actively incorporate Central America into the new international order, which is characterized by interdependence and new forms of integration. These efforts must [words indistinct] to the creation of a regional bloc and the establishment of integration mechanisms, which will take into consideration the different levels of economic development in the area.

Both presidents highlighted the importance of finding political and negotiated solutions to the armed conflict in Central America by promoting, within the framework of the law, actions conducive to furthering democracy in the region. They expressed their firm willingness to support the process of regional integration at the level of the community council, as a temporary mechanism, and

by adopting actions designed to establish a permanent regional institutional system, through the reactivation of the ODECA [Organization of Central American States]. This organization must be constituted with clearly illustrated principles, aims, and responsibilities and should be given an institutional framework to effectively achieve the economic, social, cultural, and political integration of the Central American Isthmus.

The presidents expressed their willingness to comply with commitments to establish a solid and long-lasting peace in Central America, highlighting the importance of achieving a regional agreement on security, as well as verification, control, and a reduction of weapons and troops. With regard to the security issue, the presidents agreed that the bill for the Central American Security Treaty, which was presented by the Honduran Government, basically meets the security elements that must be included in such a regional agreement. Thus, they will promote the discussion of this bill at the Central American Security Commission, which is currently meeting in Guatemala City.

Presidents Callejas and Chamorro voiced their satisfaction with the preparations for the installation of the Central American Parliament and the steps taken to ratify the protocol that was signed in San Salvador on 17 July. The presidents reviewed the state of inter-Central American commercial relations and agreed to promote the prompt implementation of the multilateral free trade agreement signed during the San Salvador summit. They praised the results of the recent meeting among members of the economic cabinets of Central American countries, which was held in Roatan Honduras from 8 to 16 September this year. They decided to endorse this process of consultation, particularly taking into consideration that another meeting of the economic cabinets is scheduled to take place in November in Managua.

Aware of the need to increase productive capacity and opportunities for less privileged groups, they assessed the progress of their national programs for the implementation of the commitments that resulted from the world children's summit. They also discussed preparation of a regional program to reduce poverty. This program will be included in the discussions at the next presidential summit, to be held in Tegucigalpa on 12 to 13 December. Within this framework, they agreed to exchange information and experiences on social action matters. The Honduran Government offered to provide assistance to the Nicaraguan Government in the areas of responsibility of the Honduran Social Investment Fund, FHIS, and the Family Appropriation Program, PRAF.

The presidents of Honduras and Nicaragua expressed interest in their countries' benefiting from the new programs of international cooperation with the Central American region, especially those that accelerate the incorporation of both countries into blocs of world commerce. These blocs provide an additional contribution to the developmental priorities of Central America, according to its own interests.

The presidents ratified the convenience of strengthening ties with other regions. On this note, they stressed the importance of the upcoming meeting of ministers from Central American and Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] countries, which will take place in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 20 to 23 November 1991. This meeting is intended to establish joint action among Central American and Caricom countries.

Both presidents highlighted the importance of the agricultural program for Central America, which was adopted at the recent Salvadoran summit. This program includes important aspects on matters that pertain to trade among Central American countries and with other countries, modernization of the agricultural sector, and agro-industrial reconversion, among others.

The presidents emphasized the convenience of joint participation in international meetings on agricultural exports. They noted the fact that the ministers' meeting of Nonaligned Movement countries, which was recently held in Ghana, accepted Honduras as an observer. In addition, President Callejas—convinced that Nicaragua represents an example of world change towards progress, democracy, disarmament, and national reconciliation—lauded the support of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as other important members of the Nonaligned Movement, for the candidacy of Nicaragua for the presidency of that organization in 1995.

President Violeta de Chamorro ultimately thanked, on her behalf and on behalf of her supporters, the government and people of Honduras for their show of friendship during her stay in the country. She also extended a cordial invitation to the Honduran president to visit Nicaragua at a date to be announced at some future time.

Tegucigalpa, Central District Municipality, 19 September 1991

[Signed] Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, president of Honduras; Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua

Delegation To Meet With Nicaraguan Assembly

PA2209021291 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 4

[Report by Armando Villanueva]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro yesterday consented to the Honduran Government sending a parliamentary delegation to Managua to talk with Nicaraguan National Assembly deputies to persuade them to accelerate the procedures for abrogating Law No. 99, which prevents the withdrawal of a lawsuit filed against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ].

On 26 July 1986 the Sandinist Government sued the Honduran Government at the ICJ for allowing the presence of Nicaraguan contras on its territory. Former

President Daniel Ortega froze the suit in 1987 as a result of the Esquipulas Presidential Summit of 7 August of that year, but in 1988 the suit was reintroduced.

At the Tela presidential summit held on 7 August 1989, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and Honduran former President Jose Azcona Hoyo signed a new agreement freezing, but not annuling, the suit. Before leaving power, the Sandinist regime issued Law No. 99, which prevents President Chamorro from withdrawing the suit through direct negotiations with Honduras without the prior approval of two-thirds of the National Assembly deputies.

It is within this framework that the Nicaraguan president has accepted that Honduran deputies visit to Managua to persuade the Nicaraguan Legislative Branch to accelerate the procedures necessary to abrogate Law No. 99.

During a news conference Mrs. Chamorro granted just before returning to Managua on 19 September, she noted her government's efforts to strengthen its relations with Honduras in the search for a Central America of peace, liberty, democracy, and development.

She said: "We want a strong and united Central America and the Central American presidents will work tirelessly to achieve this objective." Economic and social development will be achieved only in a climate of peace and democracy, she said. Mrs. Chamorro added: This is the only way our region will secure an economic independence capable of providing the well-being that the people of the region want.

Regarding the lawsuit her country maintains against Honduras at the ICJ, the president said that Honduran President Callejas will send some delegates to Managua to exchange ideas with National Assembly deputies and to find a way to accelerate the process to abrogate Law 99.

President Chamorro said: The purpose of the visit is not to exert pressure but "to see how the search for a solution can be accelerated because I do not want inherited problems and I believe that the Nicaraguan National Assembly does not want them either."

What is happening, she said, is that Nicaragua is facing at this moment thousands of problems and the lawsuit against Honduras is one more problem that Nicaragua is carrying "like a cross" but that will be resolved soon.

Mrs. Chamorro explained that the National Assembly, just like the Judicial Branch, is independent from the Executive Branch and has the authority to decide on the suspension of the lawsuit. The president said: "I am asking the Virgin of Suyapa" to induce the assembly to withdraw the lawsuit because "we do not want any kind of conflict"

Regarding the intention of her government to plot with El Salvador to close Honduras' access to the Pacific Ocean, Chamorro said: "I do not want to cause any problem or conflict between Nicaragua and El Salvador or any other country."

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus said that Chamorro urged President Callejas to send a Honduran congressional commission to Managua.

The Honduran president expressed his satisfaction with the agreement reached with his counterpart, an agreement that symbolizes the two countries' will to implement actions of mutual benefit. The agreement, he said, has economic, political, environmental, and social significance for the two countries and is an expression of understanding based on principles of democracy and liberty.

Callejas also said that the joint declaration points out the two governments' decision to strengthen their relations for the sake of common and sustained development in the framework of duly established strategies.

Nicaragua

Ortega Protests Dropping Suit Against U.S.

PA2109191591 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 19 Sep 91

[From the "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] Former President Commander Daniel Ortega spoke on 18 September at a meeting with ENABUS [National Bus Enterprise] workers on the government's decision to dismiss Nicaragua's case at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague. These were Ortega's words.

[Begin Ortega recording] We can do nothing more than condemn the Nicaraguan Government's attitude whereby it dismissed the suit that we had filed against the U.S. Government. This decision affects law, justice, and international legal order, and it affects not only the right of the Nicaraguan people, but also the right of Third World nations to be able to sue a powerful nation when it is attacked, as the Nicaraguan people were attacked. The Nicaraguan Government can dismiss the case it has against the U.S. Government, but the Nicaraguan community will not dismiss its case against the U.S. community. We will continue our struggle to obtain the U.S. Government's compensation owed to the Nicaraguan people. [applause] We are going to strive [applause] to gain the U.S. community's sympathy, so that this same community exerts pressure on its government to compensate the Nicaraguan people for the damage caused by an unjustifiable war waged for over a decade. During this time, they mined ports, destroyed schools, destroyed health centers, and left more than 61 victims in our nation." [end recording]

Urges 'Writ of Amparo'

PA2209223291 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 22

[Text] After a long meeting with the deputies from his party, Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front), on 20 September announced that Sandinist deputies will promote the introduction of a writ of amparo before the Supreme Court to repeal Law 92. Ortega voiced his opposition to the government's decision to cancel the suit demanding compensation from the U.S. Government.

Former President Ortega demanded the repeal of the decision of the Nicaraguan Government to cancel the suit at The Hague against the United States. He also stated that, in addition to presenting a writ of amparo before the Supreme Court, the Sandinist legislative wing will present a motion to summon Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus, so that he can explain the motives of this government decision.

Political circles on 20 September described the statements by Ortega against the government's decision to cancel the suit against the United States as counterproductive, when, at the same time, Sandinist deputies are lobbying intensely in the Assembly to obtain the votes of nine deputies to uphold the presidential veto of the property law.

Political circles and diplomatic observers termed the statements by Ortega as unfortunate at the present juncture because the UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies and well-known legal experts have argued that the repeal of Law 92 represented a constitutional action that would return to the executive branch the authority to continue extrajudicial negotiations and pursue a settlement with the United States on the suit that the Sandinists presented at The Hague.

Ortega, who on 20 September held a long meeting with 39 deputies of the opposition legislative wing, said that during the discussion and approval of the budget by the plenum, his party will fight to allocate more resources to education, culture, and sports. Curiously he spoke as leader of the Sandinist parliamentarians, thus replacing Sergio Ramirez, who is out of the country.

It called to everyone's attention that on this occasion Ortega explained that he will fight so that more resources are allocated for education, culture, and sports, when last year the FSLN underestimated these areas and defended the military budget, given obvious political interests.

The journalists who attended the news conference by Ortega on 20 September noticed the difference between the speeches by the FSLN secretary general and Ramirez, and they characterized the statements by the former president as the views of the dominant bellicose sector of the FSLN.

UNO Members Comment

PA2109192891 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Sep 91 p 10

[Excerpt] Two UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies, members of the National Assembly Foreign Commission, stated on 18 September that they were not aware of the secret negotiations undertaken by the executive branch which resulted in the decision to withdraw the lawsuit filed against the United States with the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Foreign Commission President Adolfo Jarquin and commission member Jaime Bonilla, stated to BARRICADA that they had not received any previous information from the Foreign Ministry related to this issue.

Jarquin stated that he became aware of the decision through BARRICADA, after which he has tried to contact Foreign Minister [Enrique] Dreyfus to obtain more information.

Mr. Jarquin pointed out that "he could not express an opinion because he did not have the details." At the same time he defended the executive office's right to undertake any type of extrajudicial negotiations after the repeal of Bill 92.

He did not discard the possibility of the commission meeting during the next hours to discuss the information requested of Minister Dreyfus.

Hidden Agreements

Meanwhile, Mr. Bonilla stated that "it would have been preferable that the decision made could have counted with some type of consultation for it to be more balanced."

Mr. Bonilla commented: "We cannot issue any judgment criteria when considering the withdrawal (of the lawsuit). Maybe there is more in the background. Maybe there are agreements with the United States that have not been made public and that are important when making a decision."

He added that he "lacked information. I do not have enough information to voice an opinion."

Likewise, Bonilla did not disavow a meeting between the Foreign Commission and the foreign minister to obtain an explanation related to the withdrawal of the lawsuit.

The Nicaraguan Human Rights Center (CENIDH) described withdrawing the lawsuit as "the most humiliating, shameful, and painful surrender of national patrimony, our sovereignty, independence and self-determination to those who, for hundreds of years, have subjected us to a policy of submission." In addition to having trampled "our national identity as a free and sovereign country." [passages omitted]

Godoy Rejects Chamorro's Property Law Veto

PA2209010491 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Vice President Virgilio Godoy on 18 September was a guest on Radio Catolica's "The Awakening" newscast. He expressed his views on President Chamorro's veto of the property law.

[Begin Godoy recording] I believe the veto was a very serious mistake by the executive branch. It was an unnecessary error. Whether the issue was the unconstitutionality of certain aspects of the law or the entire law, it could have been debated at the appropriate level, which is the Supreme Court. With this veto, the executive branch has displayed interest, or rather concern or anxiety, over safeguarding the alleged interests of the perpetrators of the pinata like giveaway of April and May 1990. It will have to take the strongest criticism from all sectors of the country for its truly unfortunate action.

As a duty, I have taken it upon myself to carefully review the arguments presented by the presidents' attorneys to justify the veto. Their arguments are truly meager, weak, and fragile. They could go either way because they are not solid enough to justify the veto. This is why I have said it was truly a political error, and this is how it has been perceived by various sectors of Nicaraguan society. It was a mistake to have vetoed a law of doubtful unconstitutionality at best, at least from the executive branch's viewpoint. [end recording]

Vice President Godoy now refers to the discussions taking place between the Presidency and certain dubious UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies regarding the veto, which favors the Sandinist pinata like giveaway.

[Begin Godoy recording] Much has been said and more is said every day. For some time I have been hearing a pro-FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] newscast [words indistinct]. The government reporters are also FSLN supporters and they have been pressing the deputies for statements in favor of the veto.

For example, on 18 September a Liberal Party deputy from the northern part of the country was presented as being against the veto only because he said there could be discrepancies with the Constitution in some sections of the law. At no time did he say that there were differences because he did not want to make the same inconsistencies made by others. However, despite all the ruckus [piripipi], the media is saying that this man has already changed his opinion and now favors the executive branch's veto. In this respect, a deputy of the western Region Two Chinandega stated—at least this statement was published without corrections—that he will vote in favor of the veto.

Despite all this, my impression after meeting with deputies from all the political parties is that the deputies at the National Assembly will reject the veto even if by a slim margin. To reject the veto, 47 votes are required. Even if four UNO deputies change their positions, we would win by one vote. The total number of assembly members, even if we add those who have changed their minds, the day of the [words indistinct]. Nevertheless, I do not believe there are four deputies who have changed their position and who will now vote against a law they themselves approved unanimously. If this happens, we would have to say that something strange is happening. It would be incomprehensible for me to approve something unanimously today and reject it tomorrow even if in a partial manner. It would be worse yet for me to support the veto together with the people who made the original law. This would leave doubts regarding the deputy or the UNO group that takes this stance because we would doubt the honesty with which they manage their affairs or would have to consider whether they are competent because they say one thing today and another tomorrow. Several deputies who approved the Armed Forces' budget reduction changed their minds later on—when it was vetoed—and approved the budget increase. It seems these things always occur and apparently always by the same people. We will see if the people who approved the military budget reduction and later changed their minds are the same ones who approved the property law and will now change their position when we discuss the veto. [end recording]

Humberto Ortega Visits Taiwan To Sign Agreement

PA2109222991 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Managua, 21 Sep (AFP)—Major General Joaquin Cuadra reported today that General Humberto Ortega, commander of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], traveled to Taiwan on 20 September to meet with Taiwan officials and sign a military cooperation agreement.

Ortega will stay in Taipei for eight days. He was invited by the Taiwan Government to visit that Asian country. While in Taipei, General Ortega will visit military installations and sign a military agreement.

In August, Taiwan Vice President Yuan-zu Li headed a delegation of government officials and private businessmen from Taiwan on a visit to Nicaragua to strengthen relations between the two countries and to study the possibility of investing in Nicaragua.

Since coming to power in April 1990, President Violeta Chamorro has been trying to strengthen her country's relations with Taiwan. This is the first time a high-ranking Nicaraguan Army officer has visited Taiwan.

Panama

Government May Declare Emergency Due To Strikes

PA2009235591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 12

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] The Executive Branch may declare a state of national emergency and suspend some constitutional guarantees in the country, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz stated, referring to the strikes and demonstrations carried out by employees of the public and private sector.

Cruz also said that Law 25, which allows the dismissal of public employees who participate in actions against the government, is still in force and could be used against employees who participate in protests and strikes.

"The moment the Executive Branch feels that public order is being disrupted, it is constitutionally empowered to declare a state of emergency and suspend all or some guarantees established in the Constitution throughout the country or areas of it," the official indicated.

He added that the suspension of constitutional guarantees is a weapon created by the democratic system to defend itself against its enemies and the dangers it faces.

The attorney general said that the government could have enforced Law 25 against striking teachers and professors but it has not, even though they went on an indefinite strike. "Based on this law and some cabinet decrees of January 1991, work stoppages and abrupt strikes in the public sector constitute an attack on democracy and constitutional order and are sufficient grounds to dismiss the organizers and supporters of these actions," Cruz asserted.

Although a bill repealing Law 25 is in the National Legislative Assembly, the law will remain in force unless it is repealed, he added.

Law 25 was the legal instrument used to dismiss thousands of public employees, in the wake of the 4 and 5 December coup attempt led by former National Police Director Eduardo Herrera, which coincided with a strike called by the public sector.

Thousands of public employees accused by the government of Guillermo Endara of participating in the foiled coup were dismissed in accordance with this law. Attorney General Cruz, however, said two months ago there were no proof linking the dismissed employees to the coup attempt.

Teachers are now on strike, and public sector employees staged a demonstration yesterday at the National Assembly to demand the reinstatement of dismissed employees. In addition, construction sector workers are threatening to go on strike to press for their demands.

To conclude, President Guillermo Endara yesterday appealed to workers for calm and asserted that his government will take strong actions against anyone who tries to disrupt democratic institutions.

Demonstrators March To Protest Economic Policy

PA2009184791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 8C

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Approximately 50 labor, student, union, and university organizations, as well as a number of Chorrillo homeless, on 19 September participated in a march to the Legislative Assembly, where they rejected the economic policy of President Guillermo Endara's government.

The marchers, who gathered at Belisario Porras Square and walked the city's main streets, included approximately 8,000 demonstrators, who in unison shouted slogans against the administration and held above their heads banners alluding to the country's present economic crisis.

One member of the Coordinating Committee for the Right to Live, the organization that called for the protest, said that the action of the participating organizations intended to make known to the government that "the means to resolve local problems are being exhausted" and that specific actions are necessary to stop the international lending institutions' demands for repayment to the detriment of the country's neediest classes.

The source pointed out that it is urgent for the Legislative Assembly to take action that would lead to reinstating the workers who were fired under Law 25 and who had nothing to do with an "alleged coup that never occurred." He added that the government must pay the overdue step increases, based on length of service, owed to a large number of public workers.

Arriving at the Assembly, the demonstrators were received by a commission of parliamentarians, who proposed to the Assembly plenum that they yield the floor to 11 labor leaders, who reasserted their opposition to the government.

Teachers Sign Agreement; Strike Ends

PA2109181391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Sep 91 p 1A

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Yesterday approximately 13 teachers organizations signed an agreement with the Education Ministry to put an end to the strike that has kept 400,000 students away from their classrooms for six days.

However, the agreement was not signed by the Association of Professors or by the United Panamanian Teachers Union, which view the fact that Resolution No. 1511 remains in effect as an affront to the teachers associations. This resolution has been a source of discord between the Education Ministry and the teacher leaders.

Following the signing of the document, a spokesman for the Independent Teachers Movement, Efrain de Leon, asked teachers to return to their classrooms throughout the country and to make up for the time that has been lost.

He said that 80 percent of the demands presented by the teachers to the Education Ministry have been satisfied. De Leon explained that never have negotiations satisfied all the demands of any of the parties involved in a dispute.

Members of the Association of Professors and of the United Panamanian Teachers Union insulted the teachers who signed the agreement and picketed in front of the Education Ministry. Education Ministry authorities had to ask the Public Force to maintain order in the area.

The division among the various teachers associations was heightened when Eulogia Bocanegra, a leader of the United Panamanian Teachers Union, said that the teachers who belong to this organization will not acknowledge as valid the agreement signed by the rest of the teachers' groups. Domingo Sanchez, of the Association of Professors, said that the agreement has no validity because it was approved by teacher leaders without consulting with the rank and file.

Education Minister Marcos Alarcon has characterized the agreement as "beneficial" because it grants salary benefits and improved working conditions and annuls rulings that were negatively affecting the teachers' employment stability.

Meanwhile, yesterday, after 36 hours of negotiations between the Committee for the Recovery of Bocas del Toro Province and a restructuring committee appointed by President Guillermo Endara, an agreement was reached to put an end to the general strike called by the Committee.

The strike, which lasted two days, paralyzed, almost completely, all commercial activities in the province. The strike came because the government has failed to satisfy the social needs of the people of a province, who on 22 April endured a tremor that damaged most of the region's public services and who in September suffered the onslaught of floods.

Some of the most important points of this agreement call for the construction of rural roads and for an increase in the investment budget for the province, which last year amounted to only 5.7 million balboas.

There are also plans for the construction of a hospital in Changuinola. This construction is to take place with funds provided by the Social Security Institution and the Social Security Fund. The hospital is scheduled to serve 40,000 residents of the region.

Endara Calls For Halt to Strikes by 'Minority'

PA2009175591 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Speech to the nation by President Guillermo Endara in Panama City on 19 September—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: We have a country filled with serious needs. Everywhere there are old problems and unfulfilled aspirations. Let us recall for the umpteenth time that when we inherited a devastated economy from the dictatorship, we also inherited those needs, problems, and aspirations. The worst part is that the government we received had no resources, but many debts.

Now then, the Panamanian people can be divided into two groups with regard to the way that they promote their aspirations. There is a minority, which is fortunate because it has the means to organize and to pressure the government, which lacks resources. This minority—which includes teachers, doctors, restaurant owners, merchants, industrialists, union members, and other sectors—has been organizing marches, stoppages, strikes, and other protest movements to promote its interests and aspirations. To date, the government has listened to the proposals of these Panamanians, who are fortunate to be organized, and it considers some of their aspirations to be reasonable and feasible. These Panamanians are the group that I call the fortunate minority.

Next to this fortunate minority is the great majority of Panamanians who also have many old problems and great unfulfilled aspirations. This unfortunate majority cannot exert pressure on the government because it has neither the organization nor the means to apply such pressure. It carries its problems on its shoulders in silence. Nevertheless, its needs are as pressing and genuine as those of the fortunate minority. Its needs and aspirations are not of secondary importance.

The government cannot turn its back on this majority of fellow countrymen with the excuse that it first has to attend to those who are organized. My government has the duty of prioritizing the solution to needs because it cannot, as it would like, satisfy all demands generously. For example, the children of Panama have many needs. However, children cannot go on strike or hold stoppages. One year ago, at the UN summit on children, 72 presidents declared that we would give utmost priority to the needs of children in our countries. This is so in Panama, not because of protests or demonstrations they might or might not hold, but because of the deep belief that this is the inescapable duty of my government.

We cannot cure our ailments overnight. The measures to exert pressure, such as demonstrations, marches, and strikes, do not help. Just the opposite, many times they sidetrack efforts and vital steps intended to achieve our country's progress.

This is why I ask all Panamanians not to mistakenly believe that the government has yielded or will yield to

pressure. It will not turn its attention from the great majority of unfortunates who lack the organization to defend themselves. It must be clear that if need be, the government will declare a strike on the strikes to exert pressure. The government would then refuse to listen to any group while imposing measures of force. I do not want to do this, but if necessary, let there be no doubt that I will do so.

It is a very different situation when complaints are expressed and protests are carried out in an orderly manner, through legal procedures at the Supreme Court. The decisions of the highest court will be respected completely and faithfully by my government, even if those decisions are unfavorable. This is so because the democratic system we want to establish in Panama is characterized by the rule of law, which we must at all times respect and strengthen.

We are building a new country. We must all agree to live under new rules. They place obligations on all of us. The government's obligation is clear—to invest wisely the few financial resources it has, to maintain public order, and at the same time, to guarantee basic freedoms. The citizen's obligation is to contribute individually to create a favorable climate for the nation's economic recovery. The more self-discipline we show, the faster we will attain the reconstruction we all desire.

I call on all sectors and groups in the country to think things over. Let us all act wisely and sensibly, bearing in mind everyone's interests rather than those of just a few. Let us resolve our problems in peace and order. Thank you.

Government Not To Freeze Minimum Wage

PA2009160991 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Sep 91 p 31

[Text] Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas has pointed out that the government cannot freeze the minimum wage because the Constitution itself imposes a periodic reevaluation. Therefore, the analysis being conducted by the tripartite Minimum Wages National Commission will continue, and the results will later be discussed as one of the issues in the national dialogue.

Minister Rosas explained that, with respect to the negotiations that are being conducted with international organizations, the minister of planning and economic policy, as well as the minister of finance and treasury, have been informed of the constitutional and legal basis and the reasoning behind the continuation of the minimum wage analysis.

According to the National Political Constitution and the Labor Code the minimum wage must be reviewed periodically. Therefore, the national government, through the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, is complying with this ruling, since it has not been carried out for more than eight years.

Meanwhile, Labor Minister Rosas has pointed out that there is no labor conflict in the Bocas del Toro Chiriqui Land Company. The work stoppage called for in the near future is related to the dissatisfaction of area residents with the delay in carrying out the reconstruction programs agreed to by the government after the earthquake that affected the region.

In light of this situation, Labor Minister Rosas stated that he hopes that events that affect normal fruit production and export activities do not take place.

In addition, Minister Rosas referred to the work stoppage called for by SUNTRACS [Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers], stating that this issue is being analyzed by CAPAC [Panamanian Chamber of Construction] and SUNTRACT according to an existing agreement between them. He said that no labor complaints have been brought to the attention of the Labor Ministry, and that he, as labor minister, has taken the initiative to prompt both sides to meet to look for the proper and most appropriate way to resolve differences.

Argentina

Di Tella Views NAM Withdrawal, Ties With U.S.

PY2009175691 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0146 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Guido di Tella by Mariano Grondona on the "Key Hour" program; live]

[Text] [Grondona] We are here with Foreign Minister Guido di Tella. If you agree, we will watch a few seconds of a tape showing President Carlos Menem and the foreign minister as they formally announced today that Argentina is no longer a Nonaligned Movement member.

[Begin Menem recording, in progress] ...cannot remain in a movement that obviously does not respect human rights, press freedom, and ideological pluralism. Consequently, today we decided to officially communicate our decision to all Nonaligned Movement countries, to the rest of the world, and especially to the Yugoslav president, who is the movement's president. [end recording]

[Grondona continues] Was that necessary? Was it actually necessary to leave in order to adopt a position?

[Di Tella] Well, I believe this was a logical, elementary decision. It was a logical consequence of our policy. The confrontation between East and West is over. Nonalignment no longer makes any sense. It did at a time, when there was a risk of a nuclear holocaust in the 1970's, when we joined the movement.

Yet now two things have happened. The confrontation has disappeared, nonalignment makes no sense, and, in addition, the nonaligned group aligned itself for a long time with the communist bloc. This was made clear in 1979 in Havana. Finally, the discrepancy between the worldwide convergence toward harmony and the Nonaligned Movement leaning toward a position of confrontation prompted this decision.

I believe that what will happen here is the same thing that occurred in the story of the emperor's new clothes. We are saying something that everyone knows: This is a nostalgic movement, a movement of the past that was born with much enthusiasm, a movement that we joined, a movement that did not succeed.

I believe that today everyone will say that this was an obvious, natural decision. In one month, people will wonder why the issue was discussed at all, because it was so obvious that we could not belong to the movement.

We want to belong to the First World, to the Western alliance. They are our allies. We do not mean to say that we have no problems with them. We do have problems. We debate commercial issues, subsidies, and other matters. Yet we belong to the same alliance. We are implementing the same policies, the policies that have led 10, 15, or 25 countries to prosperity.

This is not automatic. Hard work is necessary, and this is what we are doing in Argentina, where a lot of work is being done. Yet I believe we cannot say that we want to be among the top countries of the world, in the First World, and at the same time play the demagogy of the Nonaligned Movement.

[Grondona] How many Latin American countries still belong to the Nonaligned Movement?

[Di Tella] Well, for a start Mexico does not belong to the movement, neither does Brazil, except in its capacity as observer, nor Argentina. No less than the three most important Latin American countries do not belong to the Nonaligned Movement. Chile's case is special because this country never withdrew [as heard]. It was simply not invited [to join] during Pinochet's government. Now it has accepted the invitation to join the movement. However, it strongly backed us, the same as Venezuela, Egypt, and Yugoslavia. This was the minority of countries that advocated a change, because this is what we sought: to bring about changes. We encountered very serious obstacles.

[Grondona] During the meeting in Accra?

[Di Tella] Yes, during the Accra meeting. We went to the Accra meeting with the hope, not with the chance, but at least with the hope of being able to make an important change, but we failed. The final declaration links respect for human rights to a certain level of prosperity. It admits the violation of human rights in poor environments. We do not tolerate nor accept this. Our proposal for a multiparty system was not accepted. We even were offered the formation of a commission with representatives from Argentina, Libya, Uganda, and Cuba to discuss this subject. We did not accept this proposal because we did not believe this subject should be discussed by this group of countries, which has not respected or merely does not believe in a ...

[Grondona, interrupting] Minister, the reason why I asked you whether any Latin American countries still belong to the movement is because of the front page of today's PAGINA 12 issue. I want to show it to you and see how you react. Director, could you show us PAGINA 12's front cover? It shows President Menem with a large Mexican hat, as if to say: We caught you; deep inside you are Latin American.

[Di Tella] No. Listen to me, we have never denied we are Latin American. I believe that that Mexican hat is a good sign of how a practical country reacts to the free trade agreement between Mexico and the United States, which will bring changes for Mexico and have a great influence on the United States. But this agreement will bring changes primarily for Mexico. We want to wear this hat, a similar hat within a few years time when we do exactly the same thing, once our stability plan has been consolidated, once we again tread the unmistakable path of prosperity that awaits Argentina.

[Grondona] After going through hell?

[Di Tella] We already have gone through hell because two years ago hyperinflation caused the collapse of our society. We witnessed how our society fell apart. Now, we talk about harsh or not-so-harsh adjustments. But what was really difficult to endure was the chaos caused by hyperinflation. That was really tragic. What we are experiencing now is less difficult. The only and less-difficult path to tread is the one we are treading on now. There is no other alternative. This is what we must do. It might seem a very difficult effort and, what is more, it will not yield immediate results. It is yielding significant results in the short term, but there is a long way to go. Let us not be deceived; we still have a long way to go. However, I believe the policies we are implementing are essential policies for the development of Argentina, for the development of any country. A country does not prosper on donations or favors because they do not exist, but rather from the effort made by each country and a determined defense of one's own interests.

[Grondona] Minister, you were talking about Mexico. Mexico, for example, is establishing a common market with the United States. But Mexico's foreign policy always established a marked difference with the United States. So, what many people wonder is whether we are not much in favor of the United States. Did we need to ...

[Di Tella, interrupting] Well, yes, you may be right Grondona. We upheld that freedom of expression and press freedom should go hand in hand. You might not agree, but we upheld the need to respect the freedom of expression. Or do you agree with this?

[Grondona] If there is freedom of expression, I am all for it.

[Di Tella] Very well then, you must support us. We have upheld and defended this issue. We have defended the multiparty system. We have defended human rights.

[Grondona] I would have never entered that field as Peronists did, because they were the ones to tackle the subject, am I right?

[Di Tella] That is right. But the world was quite different then from what it is today.

[Grondona] Now then, don't you think it is rather drastic to leave suddenly, slamming the doors everywhere?

[Di Tella] Nobody slammed any doors. We upheld the need for these changes, but these changes were not accepted. We believe we must also use a new language to say things. We cannot use an ambiguous language; we cannot deceive the people. The country, and many people of goodwill, believed that the Nonaligned Movement was a path, but this is not the path. The countries of the South, as they are called, continue to have problems. First, there should be no nonaligned countries, because it is no longer justified; also, there must not be any more poverty-stricken people or difficulties in growth, because these problems do exist. But that is not the path. The path is the one taken by us.

[Grondona] For example, one sees countries that already belong to the First World such as France and Japan. They have differences with the United States. What I mean is that they are not identified with each other [changes thought]; they bicker with each other. Now we find the United States marvelous, perfect ...

[Di Tella, interrupting] Maybe that is what you believe. I don't.

[Grondona] No? If you don't, you are very good at pretending.

[Di Tella] I am not concealing anything. What you do not realize is that our relationship with Europe, which is very good, has always been good but you do not talk about it because it is not a novelty. Since our relationship with the United States has already been poor, now that it is at the same level as our relationship with Europe, it is a novelty. I believe that as a result of the country's maturity, our good relationship with the United States will stop being a novelty the same as Spain's good relationship with the United States stopped being a novelty. Spain's entry into NATO was a novelty. It shook all of Spain but nobody talks about the good and tight relationship that Spain maintains with the United States.

[Grondona] However, each country has a certain autonomy. How would you describe Argentina's profile in its relationship with the United States?

[Di Tella] What is our stance regarding U.S. subsidies? We maintain that they are unfair. The U.S. subsidy policy is a disaster; the European subsidy policy is a disaster. But now then, what can we do to solve the problem: through the GATT, not through symbolic [word indistinct] because the great countries are great and we cannot ignore that fact. It is a fact that they exert pressure. It is obvious that we must defend ourselves but the best way to defend ourselves is by establishing an internal order, through international cooperation, and by discussing each case separately.

[Grondona] Don't you think, and this is my last question, that we are being rather exaggerated. Before, we were anti-U.S. in every aspect and now we are strongly pro-U.S.?

[Di Tella] No. No, that is not the case because I am not in favor of their agricultural and livestock policy, which is disastrous. It is a disaster for them and for the rest of the world. What can I say?

[Grondona] What other disastrous problems do they have?

[Di Tella] Look here, I believe that racism, the ethnic problem, is a very serious problem we do not have. It is an extremely serious and complex problem. The problem of the neglected strata of society is very serious. I believe that Europe does not have this problem, either because it

did not have ethnic problems or because it managed to establish its society. This is a shocking problem. They have this small group, I say small but it involves millions of people, that are the neglected strata of society and (?share a similar) ethnic origin and stick out like a sore thumb.

[Grondona] You have changed, haven't you. I have known you for many years.

[Di Tella] So have you.

[Grondona] Yes, I have changed. I have learned a lot.

[Di Tella] We are still alive because we change, if not we would not be in (?this situation). I can assure you that in 20 years time we will not be implementing these policies; we will be implementing other policies because the situation in the world will be different, because the world will change. The policies we are implementing, the effort we are making in the economic front is extraordinary, unique, and it should be regarded as such.

[Grondona] Do you support our next guest [referring to Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo]?

[Di Tella] Look here, if he did not exist we would have to invent him.

[Grondona] It would be difficult to invent Cavallo don't you think?

[Di Tella] No. He was already invented.

[Grondona] Well, now it is the invention's turn.

UCR Rejects Withdrawal From Nonaligned Movement

PY2009133891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2305 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Sep (TELAM)—The Radical Civic Union [UCR] rejected the government's decision to withdraw from the Nonaligned Movement and stated: "Our country should work seriously within the framework of this movement. It should use the force generated by the movement to voice its complaints and create a new order in which the southern hemisphere is not put aside.

The communique released by the UCR National Committee also states: "The world has changed and, consequently, the strategies to defend our national interests must also change. The principles that guide the basic policies of a nation, however, should not change. If they do, the nation risks losing its national identity and the independence of criteria that must be used when making decisions on foreign policy."

Economy Minister Leaves for New York, Washington

PY2109140691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1054 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (TELAM) — Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo departed last night for New York, where he will hold talks with authorities of the IMF, World Bank, and the U.S. Treasury Department.

Cavallo will remain just over a week in New York and Washington, where he will attempt to make some progress in negotiations with the IMF, specifically to achieve a medium-term agreement that will allow Argentina to receive some $3 billion over a 3-year period.

In the U.S. capital, the economy minister will intensify his contacts with the Treasury Department to pave the road for Argentina's access to the benefits of the Brady Plan to reduce the public debt, and he will make preparations for the visit to the United States by President Carlos Menem this November.

Cavallo is making his trip while an IMF mission headed by Ted Beza, director of the Western Hemisphere Department, is verifying whether the country has complied with the guidelines in the first three months of the stand-by agreement—something the Economy Ministry does not doubt—which will permit the country to receive $240 million pertaining to that period.

Di Tella Signs Agreement With U.S. Ambassador

PY2009185291 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Argentina and the United States signed a bilateral agreement in which Argentina expresses support for the agreement on GATT subsidies.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman signed the agreement at San Martin Palace. According to official spokesmen, this agreement represents the consolidation of Argentina's economic-commercial relationship with the United States.

Arslanian Demands Resignation of Indicted Judge

PY2109015891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Justice Minister Leon Arslanian yesterday publicly demanded the resignation of indicted Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria but her lawyer replied that she will not resign and that the controversial question should be handled by Congress.

"She must resign," said the minister, who added that Servini de Cubria's departure would clear the atmosphere in the judicial system, under fire for the judge's alleged mishandling of the Yomagate drug money laundering scandal involving President Carlos Menem's in-laws and top Justicialist government officials.

Servini de Cubria's defence attorney Roberto Rivas, however, warned Arslanian against meddling in the judicial branch's affairs stressing that the minister "will be sorry" for having made such statements.

The Servini de Cubria case has become a bone of legal and political contention since the Yomagate scandal erupted, with the government complaining against the Radicals for having pushed the parliamentary impeachment of the judge. The opposition (including the Radicals) accused both the executive branch and several Justicialist deputies of trying to obstruct impeachment proceedings and investigations because the case exposes the involvement of former government members in a drug money laundering mafia.

Despite their confrontation, both the minister and the judge's attorney agreed that it is up to the Lower House impeachment committee to ultimately make a final decision about Servini de Cubria's legal situation. This was interpreted as indirect criticism to those Justicialist legislators who have been deliberately blocking investigations by the congressional committee for six weeks now.

Servini de Cubria was indicted by two of her peers at the federal courts: Judge Miguel Pons charged her with breach of duty (imposing illegal sentences), abuse of office and malfeasance (irregular handling of the cocaine money laundering case), and Judge Nestor Blondi indicted her on similar charges plus mishandling of a case about the allegedly illegal purchase of 1,300,000 school smocks by the government.

Defense Minister Returns From Chile

PY2009185091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1805 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez is meeting now with the three Armed Forces chiefs of staff and the Joint Staff chief after returning from Santiago, Chile, where he participated in Independence Day ceremonies.

Gonzalez' meeting with Lieutenant General Martin Bonnet, Brigadier General Jose Julia, and Vice Admiral Jorge Ferrer is taking place in Jorge Newbery Airport's VIP room. Vice Admiral Emilio Osses, chief of the Joint Staff, is also participating in the meeting.

The defense minister arrived at the military sector of the metropolitan airport just after 1410 [1710 GMT].

Planning Secretary Resigns From Post in Protest

PY2109221091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1322 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (NA)—Vittorio Orsi confirmed today his resignation as planning secretary because he disagrees with the appointment of Justicialist Deputy Jorge Dominguez as chief of the Yacyreta binational group.

Bolivia

Bomb Defused in American-Bolivian Bank Agency

PY2109145291 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

["Special report" from Santa Cruz]

[Excerpt] The presence of terrorism was also detected yesterday in Santa Cruz. A homemade explosive device, looking like a small basket, was defused in time by the departmental police bomb squad. The bomb was planted at the American-Bolivian bank agency. Clients reported the presence of the suspicious-looking basket, which was left there by two young boys.

This report first mobilized the executive directors of the American-Bolivian bank, and then the bomb squad brigade that managed to defuse the bomb in due time. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Affairs Delegate Meets Paz Zamora

PY2009145091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Bolivia is one of the first Latin American countries to be visited by Alain Vivien, French minister delegate for foreign affairs. Upon his arrival in Bolivia today, the French minister met President Paz Zamora to discuss economic and social matters of interest to the two countries.

Alain Vivien reported to the press:

[Begin Vivien recording in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I would like to tell you that for a long time, too long a time, no French minister has visited Bolivia. Nonetheless, throughout the years, our two countries have fruitfully cooperated in various fields. This is why I decided to include a visit to Bolivia on the agenda of my first official visit to Latin America as French minister.

I have just met President Jaime Paz Zamora and conveyed him my greetings. The president has said very kind and friendly words about my country. He expressed his wish to visit us in France some day or to perhaps receive French President Francois Mitterrand here in Bolivia. [end recording]

Says Visit 'Very Productive'

PY2109162291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Alain Vivien has reported on the negotiations he is carrying out in our country for better commercial and diplomatic relations between Bolivia and France.

Vivien said his visit to Bolivia has been very productive, because until this moment he has had the opportunity to

meet with President Paz Zamora and five ministers of his cabinet to discuss matters related to relations between the two countries.

He referred to the possibility of increasing technical and commercial cooperation to the end of 1991, thanks to the economic balance and the credibility achieved by Bolivia over the past few years. Vivien also noted the alternate development program and the courageous policy implemented by the government—an extremely intelligent policy prepared by the Bolivian Government—to reduce and overcome the drug trafficking problem.

Of course we have followed with great attention the policy implemented in this field, and we feel that it is a policy that deserves our support, he said.

He also cited French cooperation with the (Orson Institute) and with the Bolivian Institute for Altitude as examples of relations and cooperation in the field of research. He also noted French cooperation in other fields related to technological and social development in the country.

Drug Baron Roca Vasquez Surrenders to Officials

PY2009152891 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Oscar Roca Vasquez, alias The Singer, surrendered yesterday afternoon to antidrug officials in Santa Cruz. He has thus accepted the so-called Repentance Decree.

Roca Vasquez arrived at El Trompillo Airport at approximately 1500 aboard a single-engine, Cessna-type plane, license number CP-1545, accompanied by two other individuals. They came from Santa Ana de Yacuma. He previously had contacted authorities to announce his decision.

At the airport, The Singer was approached by plainclothes agents who were waiting for him. Roca Vasquez then got into a Toyota van with no license plate. They left for an unknown destination. It was later learned that Roca Vasquez was immediately taken to La Paz.

The Singer, as Roca Vasquez is known, is the fifth drug kingpin to surrender voluntarily. The others are Edwin Guzman, who surrendered on 11 July, and then Antonio Naciff, Winston Rodriguez, and Hugo Rivero Villavicencio.

Roca Vasquez is included in a list of presumed traffickers distributed by the DEA after the arrest of Jorge Roca Suarez, alias Thatched Roof, in the United States.

Repentance Decree Praised

PY2109033291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The Repentance Decree promulgated by the government continues to yield good results: A fifth drug trafficker has surrendered to antinarcotics police. He is former singer Oscar Roca. He is the fifth drug trafficker to surrender within the framework of the Repentance Decree, which will be in force for 120 days. This shows that this decree is contributing positively to the success of the antidrug fight, Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico said.

[Begin Torrico recording] Mr. Oscar Roca surrendered in Santa Cruz yesterday. In the next few hours, he will be taken to La Paz. He is the fifth person to surrender. All who have surrendered will now be placed at the disposal of the courts as established by our laws. This means that this aspect of the government antidrug program, which is being implemented simultaneously with other aspects of the antidrug program, is meeting its objectives. The antidrug program is being enforced nationwide and is yielding thorough and effective results. [end recording]

Terrorist Attack on Power Center Darkens La Paz

PY2009141491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Report by Isaac Gutierrez]

[Text] Good morning. We are in direct contact with government spokesman Mario Rueda Pena. Last night, a blackout affected La Paz for approximately 45 minutes. This terrorist attack reportedly took place near the town of Quelluani, not far from the power distribution center in this capital. Dr. Rueda Pena, what information does the government have on this terrorist attack?

[Begin recording] Well, the terrorist attack was carried out precisely in the place you mentioned. Two unidentified people carried out the attack. These are people totally inexperienced in handling explosives. They planted two dynamite charges on two power distribution pylons, and, apparently when they were coming down the pylon, another bomb they were carrying—with which they probably intended to carry out other attacks—exploded suddenly and blew them to pieces. Their faces were totally destroyed. The bodies of the two terrorists are currently in the General Hospital morgue. The police, through their specialized department, are carrying out the appropriate investigations to identify these individuals. They are poorly dressed, in traditional peasant clothing. I believe we will have further news on this case in the next few hours. And this also confirms the following:

1. That these are members of a desperate, isolated small group, with no chance whatsoever of projecting their attacks to the social sectors. That is, with no chance of affecting the people. They are presumably people maladjusted to our society, and this, as you know, causes emotional and personality problems in an individual. There are a number of disorders that usually are detected in a terrorist's personality.

2. The other aspect that catches our attention is their absolute inexperience and lack of training in this unfortunate profession of terrorism. Evidence of this is the inexperienced manner in which they handled the bombs, thus causing their own deaths. This is obviously a condemnable act, and at the same time it offers the police a good opportunity to carry out an investigation to identify the group to which they belong. [end recording]

Four power pylons were damaged by the explosion, according to the official report. Moreover, two people died when the bomb they were carrying exploded.

Terrorists Blow Up Pipeline in Oruro

PY2109141491 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

["Special report" from Oruro]

[Text] At approximately 0400 yesterday morning, a dynamite attack was carried out near Panduro, some 60 km from Oruro. According to preliminary reports, unidentified individuals dynamited the poli-pipeline that belongs to the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB]. It was learned that at the time of the attack, YPFB was pumping kerosene to the government house. According to the report, a considerable amount of kerosene was lost, even though it did not catch fire, thus preventing further damage to the pipeline.

Police agents were deployed there immediately, and an investigation of this dynamite attack on the YPFB pipeline continues. This pipeline leads to the government house. Further investigations will be carried out, and an official report will be issued within the next few hours.

This could have some connection with the dynamite attack against the government in which four power pylons were destroyed; the pylons are now being repaired. No further reports have been released so far, but we believe that more detail on this dynamite attack will be issued within the next few hours.

I want to repeat that a terrorist attack was carried out at approximately 0400 yesterday morning in the Panduro sector, Oruro Department.

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro Mayor To Sue U.S. Government

PY2009145891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1422 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 20 Sep (EFE)—It was reported today that Rio de Janeiro Mayor Marcelo Alencar is going to file a lawsuit against the U.S. State Department because he believes that the warnings it makes about violence in his city harm the state capital's economic interests and image.

Alencar will travel to the United States in October 1991, where he will meet with lawyers who will inform him about the necessary procedures for filing a lawsuit against the State Department.

The Rio de Janeiro mayor indicated that he cannot understand the warnings by the State Department, which has exaggerated the issue of urban violence in Rio de Janeiro, and this does not hide the interests of our competitors in the tourism sector.

According to Alencar, the Rio de Janeiro Town Hall is collecting information on violence in the United States to demonstrate that the State Department's campaign harms the city's image.

He also indicated that in June 1990 the U.S. Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro began to give U.S. organizations and citizens a series of recommendations on security, as related to the wave of kidnappings in the city.

Alencar added that these recommendations were drafted by the State Department, and they are same type distributed to U.S. citizens in Italy during the times of the Red Brigades.

The mayor indicated that he had received information that a video of himself being shown beside scenes of violence is being circulated in Miami, Florida.

'Internationalization' of Amazon Criticized

PY2009142691 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Sep 91 p 14

[Excerpt] During a tense declaration before the Congressional Investigating Committee that investigates the internationalization of the Amazon, Secretary of Environment Jose Lutzemberger said the economic and agricultural policy implemented by the government in the region has harmed the ecological system. This situation is reflected in the huge deforested areas, polluted rivers, and exhausted mineral reserves. Lutzemberger said: "All this damage just favors foreign groups." He added: "This is the result of the Amazon's internationalization."

According to Lutzemberger, foreign groups occupy 367,600 square km, "an area larger than the territory of the unified Germany." He said this region was occupied with the money of the contributors, thanks to the tax-exempt policy.

He cited as an example the case of the Volkswagen enterprise, which 10 years ago occupied 500,000 hectares in the southern part of Para State. He said: "Volkswagen deforested 200,000 hectares and exported 300,000 mahogany logs," adding that it "set up a slaughterhouse, gave up the project, and then sold the land."

According to Lutzemberger, minerals such as gold and tinstone leave the country illegally, and the evangelical missions are perverting the indigenous culture. "They want to convert the Indians to Christianity, but they have nothing to offer but ostracism and acculturation.

The secretary indicated that the preservation of the Amazonia will put an end to those concerns. "Sovereignty means preservation." [passage omitted]

Collor Criticizes Government Leaders

PY2109032291 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Report by Alexandre Garcia]

[Text] In today's cabinet meeting, President Fernando Collor uttered hard words on three occasions:

First, when he realized that what was spent to import foodstuffs would have yielded three times as much if it had been invested in national agriculture. He said that there must not be another crop that low. He added that 20 billion cruzeiros were placed at the disposal of the farmers and only three billion cruzeiros were used because many farmers had not honored their debts—and, consequently, were not eligible for credit—and because the interest rates were too high. President Collor then summoned the economy minister, the Bank of Brazil president, and the Central Bank president and told them that he wants a solution to this problem.

Second, he said that while he was in Africa everyone criticized the government and no government official refuted the criticism. He said he expects not only ethical virtues, but also courage from government officials. He added that those who work for the government and do not defend the government must stop working for the government.

Third and last, he said that congressmen have complained that several ministers and government secretaries have avoided them. President Collor recommended that all government officials receive congressmen, no matter what party they belong to.

Collor, Parties View Constitutional Reform

PY2109030091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Excerpts] President Collor today met for the last time with party presidents to analyze the amendment proposal for the Constitution. [passage omitted]

After a cabinet meeting this morning, Collor went to Alvorada Palace, where he had lunch with PDC [Christian Democratic Party] president Siqueira Campos, PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] president (Paiva Muniz), PRN [National Reconstruction Party] president (Daniel Tourinho), and PL [Liberal Party] president Alvaro Valle.

This was the last of a series of talks in which Collor and the party presidents addressed the national agreement and the constitutional amendment bill that the government will submit to Congress at the end of the month.

The presidents of the four parties listened to Collor's remarks on the government's financial crisis; there are no funds for investment in sectors that are essential for development. They promised to support the constitutional amendment bill as soon as it is submitted to Congress.

Economy Minister Predicts 2 Years' Zero Growth

PY2309001491 Madrid EFE in English 2348 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, Sept 22 (EFE)—Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira said Sunday the next two years would be a period of zero growth for the Brazilian economy.

He said the government of President Fernando Collor de Mello would concentrate its full attention on reducing the massive public sector debt and spending in order to bring the government's staggering deficit under control by 1993.

"It will require an enormous effort," Marques Moreira said in a Rio de Janeiro press conference.

He said the government aimed to limit the role of the state to the education, health, security, housing and transport sectors.

Economy Secretary Roberto Macedo meanwhile said the Brazilian economy had gradually worsened over the last 16 years.

He said inflation had risen steadily, investments fell from 25 to 16 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product, domestic savings dropped and public services and the infrastructure worsened.

He said the core of the problems were inflation and the public sector deficit.

Strike Continues Despite Salary Increase Offer

PY2009151891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] management has increased its salary adjustment proposal, but the oilworkers have decided to continue their strike.

Even after increasing the salary adjustment from 80 to 89.45 percent, Petrobras was unable to convince oilworkers to return to work.

The Petrobras president has said that the trade unions are demonstrating their intransigence.

The strikers' leadership has said that the proposal cannot be considered a full salary adjustment for previous inflation losses during the September 1990-August 1991 period.

Court Orders End to Strike

PY2109022491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The Superior Labor Court has ruled that the oil workers' strike is harmful, and that Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] must readjust salaries by 100 percent. The enterprise had offered 82 percent. The court decision was made in Brasilia today. Almir Pazzianotto, a member of the court who studied the case, said there was not compliance with the law on strikes.

The court decided that the days of the strike must be subtracted from salaries, and that workers should return to work immediately. The court also decided that a fine of 100,000 cruzeiros will be imposed for each day that oil workers do not report to work. The fine will be paid by the unions.

In some states, oil workers decided to continue the strike despite the court decision. In others, unions are holding meetings to make a decision.

In Rio de Janeiro, Petrobras president Ernesto Weber called on workers to return to work.

[Begin recording] [Weber] We believe that oil workers have always behaved in an orderly manner, and that now that the case has been tried, they will return to work peacefully, thus supporting the company's efforts to supply the population with an appropriate volume of fuel.

[Unidentified reporter] If this does not happen, will the enterprise dismiss workers?

[Weber] The enterprise will adopt all appropriate legal measures.

[Reporter] Does that include dismissals?

[Weber] The measures will include dismissals as a final step. [end recording]

Pernambuco, Parana Strikes End

PY2109175491 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Oil workers in Pernambuco and Parana have resumed work.

Oil production at the Araucaria refining plant, Parana state, was resumed at dawn today. Cooking gas imported from Algeria is being unloaded at Paranagua Port.

In Pernambuco the oil workers started to unload 22 million liters of diesel fuel that arrived from the United Kingdom.

The oil workers in other states continue the strike started 11 days ago.

Santos, on the Sao Paulo seacoast, has begun to run out of cooking gas. Workers at the Paulinha refining plant, the largest of its kind in Brazil, have decided to continue their strike but will hold another meeting this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Chile

Mexican President Arrives To Sign Trade Accord

PY2209021891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Report by Arturo Harlen from the Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez Airport in Santiago]

[Text] The current time here is 2031. Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's plane landed in this airport exactly one hour ago. Tomorrow, Gortari and his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin, will sign at La Moneda Palace the first free trade agreement between Latin American countries.

After getting off the Mexican Air Force plane that brought him to our country, Salinas was met by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and accorded the honors due his rank by a Chilean Air Force unit. After greeting Chilean officials at the airport, Salinas commented on the free trade agreement he will sign tomorrow with President Aylwin at La Moneda Palace.

[Begin Salinas recording] I am convinced that the treaty will yield benefits for both Chile and Mexico and that it will let us translate words into actions, as far as Latin American integration is concerned. Through this treaty, Mexico and Chile are showing their Latin American brotherhood and are moving to the forefront of international changes in which trade interrelation among sovereign nations is a major factor. Through the treaty, we will stay in tune with the current times and international changes. The treaty will also make it possible for our two countries to fully participate in trade and development benefits, which will ultimately bring well- being to our peoples. [end recording]

The highlight of the treaty to be signed tomorrow is the reduction of custom duties until reaching zero over a period not exceeding seven years. The treaty will be signed tomorrow at 1120 [1520 GMT] during a ceremony at La Moneda Palace.

Meets With Aylwin, Signs Accord

PA2209212291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Sep (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari signed in Santiago today the first free trade agreement of Ibero-America.

In the presence of members of the Cabinet and parliament, representatives from the business sector, labor union leaders, directors of international organizations,

and a crowd of reporters from both countries, the two presidents signed the historic agreement.

The agreement establishes a gradual program of lifting tariffs that will reach zero in 1996 for 90 percent of the products included in the commercial exchange, a process that will be completed in 1998 with another 105 products that are considered 'temporarily sensitive'.

President Aylwin pointed out that "we are at a new stage. This action opens tremendous possibilities and should greatly intensify trade between our two countries, which should increase from $150 million to $500 million over the next four years."

The Chilean president emphasized that the treaty also implies "a tremendous challenge" for Chilean and Mexican businessmen who will be able to sell their products in the two nations and establish mixed societies.

Simon Bolivar's ideal is undoubtedly present in this decision," President Salinas de Gortari said, reiterating that "true" integration is being built. This agreement, the president added, should directly increase the well-being of our people and provide them with better daily lives.

He emphasized that the treaty allows "an exact opening of the markets," it establishes an adequate transition period to prevent any imbalances, as well as clear rules on the regional origin of products, and it incorporates new items into free trade, such as services and cultural goods.

"This fact gives it a touch of vanguard," the Mexican president said. Salinas de Gortari is returning to his country this afternoon after a 22-hour visit to Chile.

Departs for Mexico

PY2209222691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Santiago, 22 Sep (EFE)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari left for home at 1650 local time (2050 GMT) today after a lightning 22-hour visit during which he signed a cooperation and free trade agreement with Chile.

During his stay in the Chilean capital, Salinas also signed a joint declaration with his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin. In this declaration, the two presidents advocated the strengthening of Latin American integration.

The two presidents agreed that the free trade agreement between the two countries is an unprecedented "historic landmark" in the region and urged other countries to adjust their economies to make similar agreements possible.

Salinas stated his country's will to further strengthen its "optimum" relations with Chile. He announced that the Chilean-Mexican Cultural Institute will be established in a few months.

This was the third meeting between the two chiefs of state since diplomatic relations were resumed by the two nations in 1990, after a 17-year hiatus during the defunct Chilean military regime.

Salinas attended an official luncheon at the Lo Matta Museum and departed the country. Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma saw him off at Santiago International Airport.

Aylwin Discusses Trade Accord

PY2309021891 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 2004 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Interview with President Patricio Aylwin by reporter Jacobo Zabludovsky in La Moneda Palace in Santiago on 22 September—recorded]

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, thank you very much for granting us this interview.

[Aylwin] It is a pleasure for me to have an opportunity to talk with you.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, you and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari just signed the first free trade agreement between two Latin American countries. What is the meaning of this treaty for the Americas from the political and economic point of view?

[Aylwin] I believe it has great meaning because it is the first concrete, real step on a solid basis to make the romantic idea of integration into a real process. We have been talking about integration ever since our republics were born to independent life. Many mechanisms for integration were drawn but none have succeeded so far. We have reached an agreement on a very serious basis. Two countries at different ends of the American continent, Mexico in the north and Chile in the extreme south, have reached an agreement. The development of the two countries' economies are similar, and we have shown the firm political will to move ahead toward a real freedom of trade.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, why Mexico and Chile, why not Chile and Argentina or Mexico and Brazil? What was the reason for reaching this agreement?

[Aylwin] I would say that there are perhaps three factors. First, there is a traditional historical factor of affinity, sympathy, and cordiality between Mexico and Chile. Second, I would say that the two governments had the political will do it. Both the government of President Salinas and the government I head in Chile believed that this step had to be taken, and we took our chances in favor of the treaty. And we found receptivity in our countries from business, labor, and the public. Third is the similarities of our economic system. Both Mexico and Chile have been implementing the opening of their economies. They have been carrying out a realistic policy by lowering tariffs and eliminating custom-house barriers. In other words, we believe that freedom of trade offers better development possibilities for our people.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, about half the world is opening up to the free market. This is a market that has been closed for more than 70 years. Has this influenced the talks between Mexico and Chile in reaching a practical agreement so quickly?

[Aylwin] It is possible. I would say that new winds are blowing in favor of free trade, the opening of the economies. Therefore, it has been easier for the Mexican and Chilean Governments to move ahead on this policy because we found understanding and sympathy among our own people, and encouragement because of the events taking place in the world.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, what are the medium and long-range benefits of this treaty for the people in general, the people on the street in Chile and Mexico?

[Aylwin] I understand your question, which is very good because people can ask: What does this treaty have to do with me? It is obvious that the growth of our economies is essential for our countries to have more goods to satisfy the needs of their people. The growth of the economy means more jobs, better salaries, and greater well-being. The economies can grow easier if they have a chance for greater expansion. Chilean and Mexican farmers and industrialists will have a greater chance to sell their products under equal conditions. Chileans will have a chance to sell their products in the large Mexican market of 80 million people. Mexicans will have a chance to sell in our market of only 13 million people, but which has great potential. This means an opportunity for growth that will represent an increase in the national income, more jobs, and greater well-being for the people.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, in addition to the free trade treaty with Mexico, is Chile negotiating to sign other treaties?

[Aylwin] We also hope to reach a free trade agreement with the United States. We began negotiations and we hope to follow Mexico in signing a treaty. We are also interested in increasing trade facilities and complementation with all the other countries of the continent. But the progress in the talks with each country will depend on the circumstances of the economy of each country; on the tariff levels; on protectionist policies; on the political situation of each country; and on the will to move ahead in this direction. We believe, however, that this first step is setting the path to get the support of other countries to follow this direction in order to achieve a real integration in our entire continent.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. President, does this type of bilateral agreement, which is easier to achieve than more ambitious projects, substitute for the efforts of other nations grouped in other blocs such as the Uruguay Round, which has not achieved any practical agreement so far?

[Aylwin] The Uruguay Round is much more ambitious because it involves practically all the countries of Europe, the United States, some Asian countries, and the Latin American countries. The idea of the round is to establish conditions of equity and to facilitate the free movement of merchandise among all the world's countries. Undoubtedly, because the plan is so broad it is more difficult. The interests created among the different countries and blocs, especially in some areas such as the trade of agricultural products, are very big. These interests make the progress of the talks slower and more difficult. But it is obvious that the steps we are taking are helping the process. The Uruguay Round could not have been conceived nowadays if there were no EEC that has a common position. Once our countries are able to agree on a common position, then the large obstacles will be overcome.

[Zabludovsky] A last comment Mr. President, a few minutes ago when I saw you and the Mexican president sign the treaty, I was thinking that the friendship and affinity between Chile and Mexico is not a recent invention. Our contact is centuries old. Mexican artists, painters, sculptors, and singers have come to Chile, and Chile has sent us the work of its writers and poets whom we admire so much, like the two Chileans, a man and a woman, who won the Nobel Prize in literature. Many Chilean sailors arrived on the coasts of southern Mexico leaving behind Chilean music. We still are singing Chilean songs in Guerrero and other parts of Mexico. Therefore, this treaty is one more demonstration of the friendship between Mexico and Chile, and their desire to strengthen their relations even further.

[Aylwin] This is true. I believe that for many reasons the historical evolution of Mexico and Chile shows many similarities. Mexico and Chile have been known in the continent for the defense of some values and principles, especially in international law. Mexico and Chile have been the champions in the defense of the self- determination of people. There are many examples. Despite the distance between Mexico and Chile—and perhaps distance helps because we do not have the conflicts that sometimes are created by being close to each other—there is an affinity, a mutual sympathy. What you mentioned about cultural cooperation is very important. Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, our two great Nobel Prize winners, spent part of their lives in Mexico, where they founded their second home.

UN To Decide on FACh Personnel in Gulf

PY2009184691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Air Force General Ramon Vega Hidalgo, the Chilean Air Force [FACh] commander in chief, said the United Nations will decide what should be done with FACh personnel in the Persian Gulf if hostilities reoccur. Therefore, he indicated, the FACh will observe UN policy.

[Begin recording, in progress] ... to determine the type of conflict.

I believe that one should not become nervous. In my opinion, a conflict is not imminent. There can be skirmishes. There usually are skirmishes in this type of situation where the traces of a war are left. Yet, we are not worried; one must remain calm. [end recording]

Gen. Vega emphasized that the morale of the Chilean military in the Persian Gulf is excellent. He concluded by stating that he sent them a message for the commemoration of Independence Day.

Silva Departs for UN General Assembly

PY2309033491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Today Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma announced that he will defend the rights of Latin America as a whole in his speech to the UN General Assembly. The foreign minister departed for New York tonight, and he is scheduled to speak at the General Assembly on 4 October.

A few hours before his departure, the foreign minister announced that the name of the Chilean consul in Cuba will be released [word indistinct]. He also reported that during his stay in New York he will hold at least 37 bilateral meetings, including one with the Soviet foreign minister, who, according to Silva, is interested in what is known in the USSR as the Chilean Miracle. He said the key issues at the UN General Assembly will be peace, human rights, drug enforcement, and the environment.

[Begin Silva recording] As far as we are concerned, we will advocate the right of Latin America to conduct a bloc policy within the United Nations in order to gain equal footing for dealing with international trade problems and for a truly harmonious integration of the capitals of our countries.

[Reporter] Will this be the tenor of your speech at the UN General Assembly.

[Silva] Precisely. [end recording]

Bitar Calls For Support of Baltic Independence

PY2109034891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Report by Rosa Alcayaga]

[Text] In Riga, Latvia, Sergio Bitar, secretary general of the Party for Democracy, PPD, asked Chile to appoint an ambassador to a Nordic country as concurrent ambassador to that nation as soon as possible. An appointment would allow a direct contact between Chile and the Baltic Republics, contributing to the strengthening of their independence.

[Begin Bitar recording] The most important and immediate support they need is political support to achieve independence and avoid the risks of destabilization such as the two coups that took place this year—the two attempted coups in January and August.

This also involves the support of the European Community and the United Nations, which they have just joined, and the resumption of relations and the presence of ambassadors from most countries. [end recording]

Bitar held a news conference via telephone from Riga where the Chilean leader is now.

Bitar said that a few days ago he visited Estonia as part of a tour of north European countries.

Bitar said that regressive attempts in Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia are scarce. He added that these republics are marching toward a process of economic strengthening, but this requires great international support because of the small size of these republics.

The greatest risks, said Bitar, are an economic collapse or a complication in relations with the Soviet Union in military terms. Therefore, the departure of Soviet troops is fundamental, he said. To this effect, international support is required, Bitar concluded.

Minister Rojas Seeks Stronger Ties With Europe

PY2109142091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas stated that he will not sign any accord on arms purchases during his tour of Europe, which he began today. Rojas and Major General Luis Henriquez Riffo, national defense chief of staff, will visit Spain, France, and Great Britain. Shortly before leaving, Rojas performed his last official activity at Santiago International Airport, where a Hercules plane donated to Chile by the U.S. Government arrived this morning. Rojas presided over the ceremony, which was attended by the Air Force chief of staff and the U.S. ambassador, who officially delivered the plane.

Rojas said that the objective of his visit to the three European countries is to strengthen relations with the Spanish, French and British Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] Today I will begin a tour of European countries. I am not in a position to state that in all instances we will obtain immediate results, as is the case in receiving this excellent plane. But we will obtain great results in the areas of cooperation, friendship, and military professional exchanges. [end recording] [passage omitted]

U.S. Donates Hercules Aircraft to Air Force

PY2109134491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The Hercules C-130 P donated by the U.S. Government to the Chilean Air force [FACh] arrived here this morning. The aircraft was handed over during a ceremony at the FACh Group Ten facilities at Arturo Merino Benitez airport. Attending the ceremony were

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, U.S. Ambassador to Chile Charles Gillespie, and General Ramon Vega Hidalgo, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Rojas pointed out that this plane will greatly improve services rendered by the FACh.

[Begin recording] We have received an excellent plane which will render the services known to all Chileans. This plane will fly to Antarctica and will be used in emergency situations, like when the Chilean Hercules plane was used during the tragedy in Antofagasta, and in the area of the Hudson volcano.

This aircraft can transport as much as 12,000 to 14,000 kg of cargo, and 80 to 90 people. It can fly for eight consecutive hours and has a long range of action. It will have many uses. [end recording]

This aircraft, in addition to the two other Hercules aircraft, is owned by FACh. Later this year Chile will buy another one. The two Hercules aircraft cost approximately $4 million, and the Hercules donated by the U.S. Government will require some expenditure for maintenance and spare parts. Vega said that a new Hercules plane would cost approximately $10 million.

Ministry Defends Capture of FPMR Militants

PY2109164091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss said that the Carabineros and Investigative Police departments coordinated their participation in the operation, resulting in incidents near the Alejandro Lipschutz Institute where Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] militants held a news conference a week ago. Two individuals who were sought by police were captured during the operation. Krauss said he was surprised by the directors' attitude:

[Begin recording] You are not going to tell me that this institute, which used to teach orthodox subjects, is now dedicated to the psychological treatment of people who feel threatened. The institute, which is also a center for political activities, does not have special prerogatives banning police operations. The individuals were arrested while leaving. Police had to enter because one individual who escaped from the car in which Marcos Riquelme was being held entered the premises. [end recording]

Referring to the Alejandro Lipschutz Institute, Krauss said he did not understand the directors' willingness to allow individuals who are hiding from police to approve news conferences at the institute. Another perplexing issue is the institute's dedication to gastronomic matters, or their concern for frying fish; here Krauss was referring to his own remarks when supporting the police raid. Krauss said that you have to be very careful of eating fish when lying. Krauss pointed out that he made these remarks to Communist leaders and that he did not think the remarks were a threat. If they see it that way it is because they are so sensitive that even folkloric remarks, or cooking recommendations, or comments about food, can make them nervous. Perhaps instead of reading important scientific socialist books they should read (Rencifo's) recipes, the interior minister said.

Asked if he would be willing to meet with FPMR leaders, Krauss said:

[Begin recording] I will meet them if they bring concrete proposals, and if the delegation does not include anyone being sought by the police. Otherwise, regretfully, they will end up in another place. I have refused to participate in events that included people who had quarrels with the courts, and that includes friends, people who I respect very much. The government must respect the legal system. It does not matter how much we might want to change existing laws, we must respect them for as long as they are in effect. I will receive them if they bring proposals and if delegation members do not have problems with the police or the courts. [end recording]

Krauss denied receiving a letter that FPMR leaders left at La Moneda Palace on 17 September. Regretfully I have not received anything, the minister concluded.

Mormon Church Bombed in Quinta Normal

PY2009132291 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] A bomb attack a few hours ago against a Mormon church at 9460 Los Andes Street, Quinta Normal District, caused only minor damage.

Three individuals, who covered their faces with neckerchiefs and wielded short-barreled firearms, entered the church and threatened the church leaders, forcing them to leave. Then, the individuals threw an explosive device that caused only minor damage.

Ministry Designates Acting Consul to Cuba

PY2109182491 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Sep 91 p 16

[Summary] The Foreign Ministry designated career diplomat Francisco Sepulveda as acting consul to Havana. This is the first decision made by the Foreign Ministry regarding the designation of personnel for the general consulate in Cuba.

Court Refuses To Discontinue Letelier Case

PY2109164891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Excerpt] With seven votes for, and four against, the Supreme Court plenum turned down the request to discontinue the Letelier case submitted by attorney (Marcelo Sibie) on behalf of Manuel Contreras, former DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] director. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Deputy Minister on Progress of Caracas Talks

PA2209032691 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Government Minister Hector Agudelo Serrato by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Welcome back to Colombia. What was the state of the talks as you left Caracas?

[Agudelo] The talks in Caracas at this moment are at a point of, I would say, reflection regarding the two proposals that, unfortunately, were very far removed from a cease-fire formula. However, I believe this only shows the difficult nature and the number of elements surrounding the issue under discussion. I believe we must persist.

[Reporter] How long will you be here, Mr. Deputy Minister?

[Agudelo] We will perhaps return to Caracas on 25 September.

[Reporter] What commission will you meet with?

[Agudelo] With the Public Order Advisory Commission that the government established days ago. It is made up of Dr. Horacio Serpa, Saul Arboleda, Juan Gabriel Uribe, Dr. Carlos Rodado, Gabriel and...[pauses] Gilberto Vieira, and Oti Patino. Once they are briefed on how this round of negotiations in Caracas has developed, they will travel to that city to directly ascertain, in general terms, how the negotiations have advanced. They could make personal contact with members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] and thereby fulfill the advisory role they have been assigned in a much better manner.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the members of the advisory commission and you will be meeting with the guerrillas on 25 September in Caracas?

[Agudelo] Yes, that is more or less our plan. The members of the advisory commission might not travel on 25 September but on 26 September. However, in principle, our idea is to travel with them.

[Reporter] As for the negotiations, what is left? The guerrillas' document, the government's document? What could happen? What does the future hold?

[Agudelo] We hope that once we resume talks on 26 September the parties will have thought about a cease-fire formula. We hope the guerrillas will have reviewed some of the elements of their proposal that the government found to be unacceptable. This would allow us to resume discussion on the cease-fire based on new elements and new bases that would allow us to advance a little more in the drafting of a cease-fire formula.

[Reporter] Has there been thought of the possibility of leaving aside the two documents and saying: Let us discuss other issues? Or will the two documents definitely be discussed?

[Agudelo] No, we believe the cease-fire issue is a priority. Even the CNGSB negotiators agreed. We believe this peace process, which is a long process, cannot take place in the absence of a cease-fire. The country would not understand why we are negotiating amid a confrontation. I believe the first task is to suspend the conflict. I think the CNGSB agrees with this, and thus, the parties have agreed to continue discussing the cease-fire issue using those two documents or others; I do not know which, exactly.

In the beginning we insisted on our formula because it is a finished product that includes elements contributed by the guerrillas themselves. It was the result of discussions at the negotiating table. Therefore, we would insist on our proposal, but obviously, we realize that we are involved in a negotiation, and that those talks...[pauses] the participation of the advisory commission, and in general, new elements could emerge from the discussion at the table that would allow us to part somewhat from the initial government proposal.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Minister, the National Liberation Army [ELN] has revealed a rift within that group. Is there a possibility of holding talks with the two branches of that movement?

[Agudelo] Yes, we have said the government would be willing to hold talks with ELN dissidents. We have had no formal contacts with such dissidents nor could we define their characteristics, for example, how many ELN fronts or members belong to the dissident group. Therefore, we lack the elements that would allow us to assess the importance of this division. Nevertheless, the government would be willing to hold talks with those dissidents by allowing them to participate in the negotiations in Caracas or at an independent negotiating table. The decision to include them in the Caracas talks is not only a government decision, because obviously we are holding talks there and the two parties would have to agree on this. Let us wait until we make formal contacts with dissidents of that guerrilla group so that we are better prepared to assess the situation.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Minister, is it impossible at this time to talk about the document dealing with the 96 zones of detente?

[Agudelo] Yes, it is impossible to even think that the national Army should withdraw from about 250 municipalities. That is absolutely unacceptable to the government. It is impossible to consider this for political and legal reasons. Have you noticed the public's widespread rejection of the CNGSB proposal? As we pointed out in our communique replying to this proposal, it constitutes an attempt to win something at the negotiating table that they never could win through armed means: territorial control. You cannot say today that the guerrillas control

even one municipality, not even one; and they are asking for 250. We are obviously facing an absolutely excessive request that we cannot consider.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Minister, since this process began in Cravo Norte, could it be said that this is the most difficult juncture of the talks?

[Agudelo] No, I would not dare describe it in those terms. I believe, I repeat, that the cease-fire formula is a crucial point within this peace process. It obviously includes elements that are inside and outside the process. We must also keep in mind that we are involved in a peace process with guerrilla groups that were not born yesterday. In Colombia there has been violence for many years during which hatred and controversy have generated difficulties for the peace process. The solution to a problem that has gone on for so many years obviously cannot be reached easily in a few days.

Therefore, I believe—and the two parties agree with this—that we must persist with the dialogue. However, we must do so with a secure outlook that will ensure that the process will move forward.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Minister, as for the detente zones, some citizens already are asking why the guerrillas will be located in certain zones of the country before consulting with the citizens who will have to coexist with them. What can you say about this?

[Agudelo] We once proposed that if the guerrillas accepted the government formula to place them in certain points, we would be able to establish a sort of decentralized—to use a term—mechanism allowing the guerrillas' placement to be decided with the participation of regional civilian authorities such as the governor, because this would allow us to be closer to reality.

We have proposed 60 points to place the guerrillas' military forces. They have claimed that some of those points are too remote or that the guerrillas are not present in those zones, but farther away. Those are issues pertaining to the mechanics and it is evident that the participation of regional civilian authorities—because they are more in touch with local reality—would be important at times in the placement of guerrillas in zones where they have really been present.

However, in general, one can expect these kinds of reactions to the placement of guerrilla forces regardless of the point chosen because of the reasons I told you, because this is not a confrontation of a few days, but one that has been devastating the country for many years. As a result, it is obvious that the civilians—who have been affected and even those who have not been affected by the conflict—could react negatively to such agreements.

[Reporter] Dr. Agudelo, will you now meet with the president of the Republic before meeting with the advisory commission?

[Agudelo] We have been in permanent contact with the president and the government minister. We have not in principle scheduled a meeting with the president, but we will certainly hold meetings with him before or after the talks. We will personally give a report on how the round of talks in Caracas has developed to the president and the government minister, in the absence of the advisory commssion.

[Reporter] Dr. Jesus Antonio Bejarano [presidential peace advisor] said he was pessimistic about the talks. How do you feel, Mr. Deputy Minister?

[Agudelo] I will not be pessimistic, but will continue to harbor remote hopes, as the government minister said he does at the installation of this round of talks.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Government Minister, thank you very much for your respect toward our station and we hope you have many successes in this process.

[Agudelo] Thank you, sir.

Guerrilla Sabotage Spills Oil in Border Area

PA2209230391 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] It has been reported that the oil spills that have resulted from guerrillas' dynamiting oil pipelines have contaminated the rivers and jungles of Colombia with 35 million gallons of petroleum—three times the amount spilled by the "Exxon Valdes" in the 1989 disaster in Alaska.

Approximately 115 Venezuelans are working day and night in temperatures close to 40 degrees centigrade and stifling humidity to control the latest oil spill that has moved across the Venezuelan border on 23 August.

We are sister republics and we will do everything possible to cooperate, said Aquiles Tronconi, the Venezuelan supervisor of Maraven [subsidiary of Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] that is cleaning up the spill.

EPL Guerrillas Kidnap Liberal Candidate

PA2009180491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1658 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 Sept (EFE)—Police authorities have revealed that Juan Jose Chaux Mosquera, candidate in the upcoming congressional elections, and nine of his supporters were kidnapped this morning by dissidents of the disbanded Popular Liberation Army (EPL) in Cauca Department, in southwestern Colombia.

Police sources point out that Mr. Chaux, who is the Liberal Party candidate to the Chamber of Representatives, and his group were captured by EPL rebels in Argelia (Cauca), 400 km southwest of Santa Fe de Bogota.

The police added that the guerrillas captured Mr. Chaux and his nine advisers and sympathizers during a political

meeting sponsored by the group "Liberal People's Power" in Argelia while he was campaigning for the 27 October elections.

The Maoist EPL guerrillas had dissolved as an organization last February after reaching a peace agreement with the government, and its former members had undertaken legal political activity.

However, a dissident faction continued its insurgent activities within the Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board (CNGSB), which groups together the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

ELN Leader Confirms Split Within Organization

PA2009151991 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1235 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Communique issued by the Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation, UC-ELN, in Caracas—date not given]

[Text] The Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation [UC- ELN] informs its brother movements and political parties in Colombia and around the world that the Socialist Renewal Movement [Corriente de Renovacion Socialista] has set itself up as a revolutionary organization different from ours.

There are two reasons for the separation.

1. The dramatically complex situation in the world today. Changes in the old socialist world and the many political readjustments taking place in our country, the result of staggering political, social, and economic changes, have led the Socialist Renewal Movement to stress different issues than we do in evaluating these readjustments and the tasks that our revolutionary efforts demand.

2. Limitations of structure, training, and political culture on their part as well as ours have all played a part. Difficulties have emerged in our handling of problems, which has led us to believe that we would be unable to develop our body of concepts for traditional and political plans.

Nevertheless, we value the criteria and terms of division that will allow us to search for, develop, and implement our own concepts and political ideas within different structures. This will not prevent us from attempting to continue to outline a common path, or from responding jointly to the challenges that may emerge on the Colombian political panorama.

We do not believe that the separation of the Socialist Renewal Movement from the core of the UC-ELN will make us lose sight of the importance of unity and the need to promote an understanding of our collective vanguard, which one day will guarantee a new Colombia in which the embryos of popular power will materialize and each organization will build.

For the Central Command and the National Directorate:
Manuel Perez, in charge of political affairs
Nicolas Rodriguez, in charge of military affairs
Antonio Garcia, Francisco (?Galan), Pablo Tejada, Milton Hernandez
Caracas, 1991

Statistics on Terrorists Acts for 1990-1991

PA2309011091 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 20 Sep 91 p 2

[Text] Since January 1990, 1,124 acts of terrorism have been staged by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG), drug traffickers, and organized crime. In 1990 alone, the following number of terrorist acts were staged: 198 by the ELN [Popular Liberation Army], 8 by the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], 43 by FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], 40 by drug traffickers, and 241 by organized crime.

So far in 1991, security institutions have registered the following numbers for terrorist acts: 192 by the ELN, two by the EPL's dissident faction, 261 by FARC, one by drug traffickers, and 227 by organized crime. This makes a total of 683 terrorist acts.

In 1990, the ELN attacked six towns, the EPL one, and FARC 15. According to official reports, during the first nine months of 1991, the CNG occupied 23 towns by force.

The totals for vehicles seized to carry out propaganda activities are as follows: 17 by the ELN, one by the EPL, two by the EPL's dissident faction, one by the M-19, eight by FARC, and 45 by organized crime—a total of 74 cases during 1991.

Security institutions have registered the following number on attacks by rebels, drug traffickers, and organized crime: 165 so far in 1991, as opposed to 235 in 1990.

The following numbers of attacks were staged against the Armed Forces and the police: 21 by FARC, two by drug traffickers, and 121 by organized crime.

In 1990, the following numbers of attacks were staged against the Armed Forces and the police: 25 by the ELN, three by the EPL, one by M-19, 19 by FARC, 31 by drug traffickers, and 156 by organized crime.

In that same year, 639 persons were arrested.

So far in 1991, the numbers for persons captured are as follows: 90 from the ELN, one from the EPL, 18 from EPL's dissident faction, three from the M-19, 62 from FARC, 111 alleged drug traffickers, and 354 alleged members of organized crime.

So far this year, FARC and the ELN have staged 51 ambushes and 49 attacks on military installations, according to official reports.

The security forces have registered the following numbers of raids on towns during which soldiers were either killed, wounded, or kidnapped: five by the ELN, four by the EPL's dissident faction—led by Francisco Caraballo—and six by FARC.

People's Militias Reportedly Kill 150 in 1991

PA1909182491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2229 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 17 Sep (NOTIMEX)—A member of the People's Militia operating in Medellin, the most violent city in Colombia, reported today that the organization has killed 150 drug traffickers this year.

In February 1991, the new organization, which groups members of the government, announced its reappearance "to exterminate hired killers, muggers, and drug traffickers" in what they called "Operation Medellin Clean-Up."

One of the leaders of the organization said in an interview published today by the local newspaper EL TIEMPO that 159 drug traffickers and criminals have been "executed" and at least 30 hired killers have been in rehabilitation since February.

The People's Militia—with more than 8,000 men in its ranks—was created "in view of the absence of governmental social welfare programs and outrages perpetrated against the community by government forces," the armed organization's leader said.

He added that in order to do away with bazuco (a drug made from cocaine residue and chemicals) "we will have to kill half the Medellin population."

He admitted that, during the clean-up operation, many drug dealers were killed "because they did not obey our orders." "We raid their homes, burn their drugs in front of them, and, if they go on with their business, they lose their asses," he added.

"We are convinced that this is a just cause backed by the majority of the people. We have gotten to this point because these people are impossible to educate. They have been given more than one chance, but they cannot live in a community," the leader said.

Regarding the organization's political future, the leader, member of one of the armed groups operating in Medellin pointed out: "We aim at becoming a movement of the masses. This is not a new party." We will support, he said, honest leaders in slum areas—popular barrios in cities—so money stops being diverted.

According to the Administrative Department of Security [DAS]—Colombia's intelligence department—the popular militia are both the sequel to the violence connected with drug trafficking and the result of the violence among criminal gangs.

This is how the armed militias "have gradually taken over control of the slum areas" after the top Medellin Cartel capos and the leaders of the hired killers at the service of the cartel headed by Pablo Escobar Gaviria turned themselves in to the authorities.

"We keep telling the gangs that they are forbidden to keep perpetrating crimes and that, if they fail to behave, we will confront them with arms," the Popular Militia leader said.

Attorney General Presents Human Rights Report

PA2009225291 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] On 18 September, the Attorney General presented to the president a complete report on the situation of human rights in Colombia. The document analyzed 3,087 complaints received between 1990 and 1991. The investigation concludes, among other things, that in the areas of rebel violence and little state presence, the military forces are the groups most involved in human rights violations. It also concludes that the police is the group that most violates human rights in urban areas.

According to the investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Office, the most common human rights violations are massacres, tortures, and disappearances and are particularly carried out against peasants in rebel violence areas.

Over the last year, the Attorney General's Office has imposed disciplinary punishment on 61 members of the Armed Forces after receiving 122 complaints.

Regarding the National Police, there were 281 acts of retribution against active duty members, out of a total of 1,735 reported cases.

According to the investigation, Antioquia Department has the highest number of human rights violations. Over the last year, 836 cases were penalized. The statistics from the Attorney General's Office indicates that Santander Department is second with 577 cases. Valle del Cauca Department is in third place with 488 cases, while Cauca Department has 288; Norte de Santander Department, 270; and the national territories have 250 cases of human rights violations.

The capital of the Republic registered 652 cases which, according to the Attorney General's Office, is not too high if you take into acount the size of the population.

The sectors of the population which suffer this problem the most are the peasants, independent—or informal sector—workers, union activists, public officials and employees, as well as members of the Armed Forces.

The statistics contained in the Attorney General's Office investigation include 68 massacres carried out in the last 15 months in 16 departments. Antioquia Department was the stage of 22 genocides, Cordoba Department had eight, and Santander Department had seven.

Regarding missing people, five members of the police and five members of the military forces were penalized in the last 16 months. In addition, charges were filed against 30 members of state security organizations. The highest rate of missing people is in Valle del Cauca with 123, followed by Antioquia with 111, Santander with 65, and Cundinamarca with 64.

The Office of the Attorney General is investigating 272 cases of torture involving 664 victims in Cundimamarca, Antioquia, Santander, Norte de Santander, and Cauca.

This is the first time that a government has prepared its own report on the human rights situation, and that government is the Colombian Government. Today, the first part of the report was presented by the Attorney General to President Cesar Gaviria. Dr. Jorge Orlando Melo, human rights adviser, will present the second part of the report in about 10 days .

Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta spoke at the Narino Presidential Palace when he presented the report on the violations of human rights to President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo. The report seriously involves the actions of the military and members of the national police.

[Begin Arrieta recording] The violations of human rights generally occur in areas of conflict. Where the authorities are present, more complaints are made, and there are fewer cases of killings, tortures, and missing people.

The departments that are centers of narcotics trafficking are noted specifically for a certain type of violation, for example, missing people. Generally, the victims are peasants or common citizens, who are not always linked to criminal activities.

As the violations are less complex from the point of view of crime and evidence, more issues are solved, and vice versa. As the violations are more complex, greater investigations are carried out. The Office of the Attorney General imposes penalties according to the violations. In other words, there is a relationship between the penalites and the complexity of the violations. [end recording]

Police Director on Violations

PA2009225491 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Report by Irma Carazona]

[Text] National Police Director Major General Miguel Antonio Gomez Padilla has indicated that the report made by the Attorney General's Office on human rights violations in Colombia is objective and absolutely truthful.

Gomez Padilla also called for an investigation into what he considers permanent human rights violations against the national police. Several members of this institution have been killed.

In his report to President Gavira, the attorney general also insisted that military forces should be controlled by an independent, severe, and autonomous institution.

According to the Attorney General's Office report, there have been 3,087 cases of human rights violations in the past year. During that period, 281 policemen and 61 members of the Armed Forces were disciplined. The report states that 48.8 percent of investigations into cases of torture involve members of the Armed Forces.

Gomez Padilla admits that the National Police is an institution of human beings who sometimes make mistakes. Padilla stated that the figures are real, but he also indicated that many policemen have been cleared of the charges.

[Begin Gomez Padilla recording] The Attorney General's Office talked about accusations and investigations, but it also gave figures pertaining to cases where charges against policemen were dismissed. Policemen were only disciplined in 7 percent of the cases mentioned. [end recording]

Gomez Padilla said that the National Police protects human rights everyday. He also stressed that the Attorney General's Office submitted an objective report.

[Begin Gomez Padilla recording] I just want to say that there will be total democracy in Colombia when human rights for all citizens—including uniformed citizens—are respected. [end recording]

For many political analysts there is a social explanation to the fact that police forces are tied to a high percentage of human rights violations cases:

[Begin political analyst Armando Borrero recording, in progress] ...the number of human rights violations are explainable, although not justifiable. The reason is that we are talking about a prolonged and very complex conflict that has sown much hatred in Colombia's society. Armed rebels and organized criminals practice kidnappings, one of the worst instances of human rights violations. We should demand more from the state, since the state is society's moral recourse. The state cannot behave like the enemy it wants to fight. [end recording]

* Details of New Penal Procedure Code Revealed

91SM0496A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Aug 91 p 3A

[Report by Edgar Torres: "Public Prosecutor: Penal Procedure Code Ready"]

[Text] The document describing the Office of the Public Prosecutor has been on the desk of the new justice minister, Fernando Carrillo Florez, since noon yesterday.

The University of Los Andes and its pool of experts completed work on the new Penal Procedure Code

yesterday. The numbers: 587 articles and seven temporary provisions. The contents: the groundwork of the accusatory system and, with it, the operational framework for the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The code spells out the steps that the public prosecutor, his agents, and the technical bodies of the Judicial Police can take in their mission to pursue crime.

It also defines the procedures that the Public Prosecutor's Office will follow from the scene of the crime to the court trial and sentencing of defendants.

For example, the traditional institution of the judge and the court reporter taking shorthand behind the defendant is now replaced by Public Prosecutor's Office delegations consisting of four or five prosecutors, plus Judicial Police agents and specialists in criminal investigation ranging from economists and accountants to graphologists and fingerprint experts.

The changes begin with the very structure of the system and the apportionment of responsibilities. The public prosecutor is ultimately in charge of the investigations and is responsible for standardizing criteria and defining methods for probing and verifying criminal activity.

Until now such matters have been decided individually by the 700 criminal-investigation judges and the chiefs of police units throughout the country.

With regard to uniform criteria for investigations and indictments, for example, the Judicial Police (DIJIN [Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate] and DAS [Administrative Department of Security], among others) requires prior authorization from the public prosecutor or the delegate prosecutors in order to make arrests, conduct searches, and intercept communications. Situations of flagrante delicto are obviously excepted.

The experts are thus attempting to subject to ongoing assessment and control the investigations being handled by Judicial Police bodies that would otherwise not be coordinated by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

A member of the Drafting Commission explains: "The code grants the initiative to investigate to all units and bodies of the Judicial Police; this is an unprecedented prerogative and, as such, a prerogative that demands control."

At the same time, the code accords the status of judicial evidence to all of the inquiries conducted by experts from bank superintendencies, exchange control offices, and other institutions whose officials assume the status of a financial police for this purpose.

Until now the evidence furnished by these authorities had virtually the status of just "circumstantial evidence" and as a result had to be examined again as part of a criminal proceeding.

The arrest and punishment of criminals are also addressed. For example, the code provides for prisoner release under the public prosecutor's control "when the accused is deemed not to require imprisonment."

Other Innovations

In addition, workplace detention is reinstated. "This will enable the accused, as long as he does not have a criminal record and his personality represents a guarantee to the State, to continue working and to be confined in prison only during nighttime hours."

The code establishes compensation for damages to crime victims simultaneous with the verdict, even if it is an acquittal.

As a member of the commission explained, "you bring a man to trial for fraud, and the case reveals 'insurmountable outside duress.' He is acquitted but must still compensate the victim."

Similar provisions concerning guilty verdicts terminate ownership of assets arising from an illicit enrichment or assets abandoned during or after the commission of a crime.

"We have found unoccupied properties, abandoned vehicles, and other assets that are never claimed and that have clearly been used in illicit activities." Termination of ownership may be in order in both cases.

Finally, the code makes two additional changes. It creates an elite corps of superior-court judges with powers to hand down sentences throughout the country, and it eliminates the criminal divisions in all of the country's superior courts and establishes unified divisions (each judge rules individually on the cases that he hears).

"In the first instance, the objective is that when a difficult case arises, the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court can send a group of superior-court justices to rule on and remand it."

The objective of the second change is to abolish the criminal divisions of courts so that each judge represents a unified court and can rule on cases that have been appealed.

Peru

Shining Path Kills 17 in Past 24 Hours

PA2109024391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1438 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Lima, 20 Sep (EFE)—In the past 24 hours, 17 people were killed by the Maoist Shining Path group. They were 10 Indians, six people eating in a restaurant, and a merchant who refused to pay the money "quota" the subversives were demanding from him.

According to the police, suspected Shining Path members threw explosives at restaurant in the city of Ayacucho, in southern Peru. They killed six people and seriously wounded four others.

An attack by 30 Shining Path members in Cutivireni, Satipo Province, left 10 Indians dead and three injured on 19 September. The injured were taken by the Army to a hospital in La Merced, Radio Programas reported. Satipo Province is located in Junin Department, on Peru's central mountains, bordering on the east with Lima Department.

In Lima, three suspected Shining Path members slit the throat of a merchant identified as Eduardo Silvestre Castrejon, apparently because he refused to pay them money to finance their subversive activity.

According to the latest official reports, political violence in Peru has claimed 23,000 lives and attacks have caused nearly $20 billion in losses in the past 11 years.

Uruguay

Inflation To Reach 85-90 Percent in 1991

PY2009131691 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Economy and Finance Minister Enrique Braga and Economy Under Secretary Javier de Haedo met members of the Chamber of Deputies Finance Committee for a private meeting, where no notes were taken, although certain topics that were discussed have been revealed.

It was reported that the government representatives pointed out that all the goals of the program agreed to with the IMF have been complied with, except for the inflation rate. Government officials estimated that the 1991 inflation rate will be 85 to 90 percent. [passage omitted]

Commo Accord Signed With Argentina, Brazil

PY1909234191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Sep (EFE)—It was reported here today that Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay have signed a telecommunications agreement whereby the three countries will be interconnected through a fiber-optic cable. This will improve communications and reduce costs.

Representatives of Telintar [expansion unknown], a private Argentine enterprise that handles international communications, Embratel [Brazilian Telecommunications Company] of Brazil, and Antel [National Telecommunications Administration] of Uruguay—both of which are state-run telephone companies—signed the agreement.

Antel director Gabriel Bermudez said that an underwater fiber-optics cable will involve sophisticated technology and will permit high-speed digital communications. It will also allow the three countries to start the world's fiber-optic cable network, providing high-quality services.

The network is scheduled to become operational in 1994. It will cost $100 million, of which $15 million will be paid by Uruguay.

Bermudez said that the agreement is "very important" because Uruguay expects to become a supplier of services within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), whose members are Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay.

Venezuela

Oil Deliveries To Cuba Will Continue

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[Text] Caracas, 20 Sep (EFE)—Venezuela will continue to ship 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day to Cuba as long as the Soviet Union delivers the same amount in Europe, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Armando Duran said today.

The minister, who has returned from an official three-day visit to Havana, explained that Venezuela has a trilateral agreement with the Soviet Union and Cuba, whereby the USSR delivers to Europe 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day on behalf of Venezuela, and Venezuela does the same with Cuba on behalf of the USSR.

"As long as the USSR continues to deliver to Venezuela 60,000 barrels of petroleum per day in Rotterdam (Netherlands), we will continue to supply crude oil to Cuba," the Venezuelan foreign minister pointed out.

As for the possible entry of Cuba into the San Jose Agreement whereby Mexico and Venezuela supply petroleum to 11 countries of Central America and the Caribbean under favorable terms, Duran said that the Havana government has not made any request to this effect.

Venezuela and Mexico, as members of the San Jose Agreement, each supply 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day to 11 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean under special payment conditions.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said this week that the agreement allows "extraordinary benefits" to Venezuela, because it sells its crude oil and allows commercial expansion.

Perez emphasized that the San Jose Agreement opens the market of the regions that are beneficiaries of the Venezuelan exporters and pointed out that the price of the petroleum sold is the same that the United States and other countries pay and is liquidated within a maximum term of 30 days.

The Venezuelan president added that 60 percent of the funds granted under credit programs to the region should be invested in importing Venezuelan products, particularly construction material.